

better interiors

DECEMBER 2015 150-page Issue

₹ 100

IDEAS AND DESIGN FOR BETTER LIVING

YULETIDE CHEER

120+ stylish ways to spread comfort and joy through your home

FEATURING

42mm Architecture
Annkur Khosla Design Studio
The Crossboundaries
Rajiv Parekh

BEST BUYS

80+ Christmas knick-knacks and gifting ideas that will have you discover the joy of giving

COLOUR & STYLE

6 industry experts have the scoop on the freshest Xmas trends

Christmas time is here...

One must have heard it a hundred thousand times from many Mumbaikars, but indeed, one of the best things about growing up in this cosmopolitan city is the varied festivals we celebrate and experience here through the year. So be it auspicious harvest festivals like Pongal, Baisakhi or Onam; the 'New Years' of various communities (Navroze and Gudi Padwa being the most popular); to the joyous colours of Holi, the happy fervour of Eid, the fun and merriment of Navratri, the lamps and *rangolis* of Diwali, the love and peace of Christmas and finally the excitement and gaiety of the New Years celebrations. Come December, we'll see some familiar scenes — the retail stores' new offerings for Christmas; the hawkers in our local trains and at traffic signals reaching out to sell us Santa caps; churches getting decorated; hotels prepping for the Xmas bash; bakeries offering special treats; the HR team in various offices indulging us in various contests and organizing secret Santas — that will only reaffirm that the joys are manifold when it comes to celebrating the festival of giving.



Delicate web of aluminium thread atop a lacquered steel lamp post forms the stunning Roche Bobois Coco Maxi floor lamp. Bring home the red and gold hued ones this Xmas.

For us at **Better Interiors**, Christmas always comes much before time and the *joie de vivre* lasts till the end of the year. So, while singing along to Christmas Time is Here, Silent Night and Santa Claus is Coming to Town for the *n*th time, we have also packed our little Christmas present for you in this issue. What do we have in this box? Our thematic product pages *Bazaar* has two special treats — there are some painstakingly chosen furniture, artefacts and furnishings that can make your home Christmas ready, plus some wise and beautiful selections for gifting too. And before anyone asks you, "What's new this Christmas?" turn to our *Colour & Style* pages to get all the *gyan* you need from six well-known brands on the latest Yuletide trends in colours, textures, finishes. Here, you'll also find some interesting tips and tricks to implement from these style gurus.

So go ahead, enjoy the box (read issue)! And yes, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at **Better Interiors**.

Deepa Nair
Editor



42mm Architecture designs a lavish 31,000-square-foot palatial chateau in Lucknow which is a celebration of classical architecture. The architects beautifully marry classical Tuscan architecture with the ancient Hindu practice of Vastu Shastra — the result is truly magnificent!



Architect Annkur Khosla explores the mind and lifestyle of confident young entrepreneur to create a raw and edgy aesthetic for a Bangalore penthouse. This bold hued and highly-textural house has the impressions of freedom and containment; of shelter and openness.



Architect Harsh Boghani from The Crossboundaries, designs Freshco – The Health Cafe in Vadodara, in a unique minimal design with loads of green thrown in equal measure to echo the cafe's organic ethos.

editor's pick



New in stores

I love everything about Eternal Kashi, Good Earth's latest design collection — the concept, the weaves, the textures, the colours, the products.

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COVER STORY

A space where colours pop, textures leave you perplexed and designs have multiple interpretations... architect Annkur Khosla presents a quirky, edgy, fearless and unique penthouse in Bangalore that reflects the journey and the persona of its enterprising and zealous owner.

Cover Photograph: Bharat Ramamrutham; **courtesy** Annkur Khosla Design Studio



DESIGN BYTES

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From exhibitions to store launches... the latest buzz in the design world.

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For the Christmas season our six dynamic experts from the industry share some chic, stylish and trendy ideas for your home.

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A low-down on the glitzy Acetech Alpha Awards 2015.



THING TANK

048 Swish List

A delectable selection of furniture, furnishings and crockery that take inspiration from the bygone eras, and the trends of the today...

053 Bazaar BITS AND BAUBLES

Christmas is here and it's time to celebrate by decking the halls and wrapping the presents. Here's a wonderful festive collection of accessories, giftables, furniture and lights for your home.





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CENTRESTAGE

100 **Habitat** A CLASSICAL ODE

This magnanimous chateau in Lucknow is a beautiful amalgamation of Tuscan Architecture and Vastu Shastra. In this house, New Delhi-based 42mm Architecture has skillfully adapted the grandeur of classic architecture to suit the opulent lifestyle of the inhabitants.

114 **PAUSE & AFFECT**

This raw, eccentric, vibrant and spirited penthouse in Bangalore designed by architect Annkur Khosla takes subtle cues from nature for design interpretation, while staying true to both the client and the purpose of space.

130 **Space & Spice** LOCAL PRODUCE

Architect Harsh Boghani uses his sheer creativity and ability to design Freshco – The Health Cafe in Vadodara, that reflects its organic form and function.

FINAL TAKE

138 **Gallery**

Bathroom furniture, refrigerators and vacuum cleaners... make your life convenient with this range of home appliances at your disposal.

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A comprehensive guide to the stores and people listed in this issue.

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The **Better Interiors** team chose their favourites.



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Write back



PRODUCT TREATS

The November 2015 issue really sparked off the Diwali celebrations in our home. Each year we try to spruce up our space for the festive season and this year **Better Interiors** was full of lovely suggestions to buy for the loved ones. Really enjoyed going through the *Bazaar* pages... so many amazing and varied gifting ideas. I have shortlisted at least 10 things that make perfect gifts for family and friends! As far as I'm concerned, the steel vase from Arttidinox, the glass bottles from Chamak Patti, the bookends from Spacio and t-lights from the Purple Turtles are gifts that I'd really like to give myself or force the husband to buy for me. Kudos to the team for doing such good work and spreading happiness and cheer.

KRUTTIKA BHOSLE, MUMBAI



FULLY FESTIVE

My mother is hyper, irritating and bossy just few weeks before Diwali. Dad does a lot of entertaining during the festival and therefore the house, the food, the gifts have to be top-notch. And therefore Mom is literally running about getting things sorted. At such times I turn to your Diwali issue for some trendy ideas, suggestions and inputs. The



LETTER OF THE MONTH

Over the last few months, I have noticed that the magazine has been featuring some wonderful small-town projects in the residential, retail and hospitality segments. It is extremely encouraging and inspiring to see such good work from all across the country rather than just the metros. I was totally in awe of the 360 Degree lifestyle and art store in Nasik (featured in *Off the Shelf*) beautifully-designed by architect Hiral Jobalia. I would never have imagined stumbling upon a store like this in a small city like Nasik with such remarkable collections. The whole design process was well explained in the write-up, was wonderfully captured by the photographer and laid out by your designer. I must also congratulate you for the fantastic cover — it was unusual, festive and inspiring. Many congratulations to the team for putting up such an awesome Diwali issue.

ANAITA SHETTY, BANGALORE

Colour & Style feature has helped us in deciding the decor and furnishing options. We have painted the house in shades of orange with some textured wallpapers and Indian-inspired furnishings. Mom's really happy with the decision so far, and that is something. Thank you **Better Interiors**.

TANYA MEHRA, NEW DELHI

GOOD HOMES

Both the residences published in your November issue were fantastic. The home designed by architect Amit Bapat and interior designer Sonali Lohia is luxurious, charming and almost surreal. Every corner in the house is drool-worthy while the outside view is incredible. The apartment



designed by interior designer Purvi Shah is poles apart but beautifully conceptualized nonetheless. The ethnic ambience created in this sea-facing home gives a warm feel. Keep publishing such good projects!

DISHA JOSHI, AHMEDABAD



SMALL ISSUES

Your Diwali issue was full of colour, brightness and trendy ideas and had some lovely projects. But, I really missed the *Techniques* segment which during Diwali had some fantastic and inspiring DIY set-ups. But I must say the cover was very different, festive-looking and jaw-dropping.

JENNIFER SOM, MUMBAI



GREETINGS

A very happy Diwali to everyone! I'm just writing to show my appreciation for the good work you'll do and in turn spread positivity and joy among your readers. From *Diwali Dish-out* to *Bazaar*, and from *Habitat* to *Colour & Style*, I enjoyed reading every article and so did everyone else at my home. Looking forward to the Christmas issue now...

BAANI MISHRA, LUCKNOW



KINDLY WRITE IN WITH YOUR RAVES OR RANTS TO:

deepa.nair@network18publishing.com or post to The Editor, **Better Interiors**, Unit No. 501, 5th Floor, Tower-I One Indiabulls Centre, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road, Mumbai 400013.

NOTE: CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE EDITED FOR PURPOSE OF LENGTH AND GRAMMAR.

Round About

A ROUND-UP OF WHAT'S NEW IN STORES, PRODUCTS, ART SHOWS AND MUCH MORE.

QUICK TAKE

INV HOME STORE IN MUMBAI

InV Home has opened a grand new store in Mumbai. Spread over 3,300 sq ft, the store is a one stop-solution for exquisite textiles, high-end furniture, objet d'art, tableware and lighting.

Tel: 8527222990

D'DECOR UNVEILS UNISON COLLECTION

D'decor's luxurious range titled Unison is a stunning collection of chenille's, coordinated textures, jacquard and plain muted fabrics. Here, geometric patterns are combined with rich and bold shades of black, silver and greys.

Tel: (022) 61152530

COFFEE TABLES FROM BEYOND DESIGNS

Beyond Designs has come out with a new collection of statement coffee tables. Polished to attain a sparkling finish, these coffee tables are designed in semi-precious stone tops such as white onyx, Italian marble and brass.

Tel: (011) 24335160

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION BY LITTLE WEST STORE

Little West Store, an online store has launched its Christmas collection of decor, bedding and accessories for kids. These products feature cute and fun prints, elegant shades, and luxurious fabrics with intricate detailing.

www.littleweststreet.com

Hafele Launches new brand Aqua Trendz



HAFELE HAS UNVEILED A NEW brand for bathroom faucets called Aqua Trendz. This range of designer faucets have been conceptualized, conceived and crafted in Italy. It consists of six series of designer faucets: Style, Stark, Groove, Lure, Stilt and Magic. All the Aqua Trendz faucets are recognized for their

low operational noise level and a flawless water flow quality even under difficult flow conditions. They are integrated with a Water Sense Technology which helps save 20 per cent more water as compared to the volume of water consumed in normal day-to-day operations.

www.hafeleindia.com

Artist-weaver exhibition in New Delhi

PANIPAT-BASED RAJ

Group, one of the oldest home furnishing exporters from the region, is hosting an exhibition of artworks that has emerged from a year-long interaction between eleven Delhi-based artists (some of which include Abeer Gupta, Brahm Maira, Durga Kainthola, Nidhi Khurana and Sandeep Biswas) and factory weavers. Curated by Shailin Smith, the exhibition would showcase installations, photographs, video and sound art. It will be held at The Stainless Gallery, Old Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi from 21st November to 31st December 2015.

www.rajgroup.in

Lasvit's New Branch in India



CZECH REPUBLIC-BASED LASVIT, A MANUFACTURER of unique works of glass, including bespoke lighting installations, glass artworks, and award-winning collections, has launched its Lasvit India branch in response to customer demand. It was the company's focus on private residences, where clients expect instant service, which influenced its decision to open a branch in India. Its initial aim in India will be to find the best teams of local employees and acquire a deeper understanding of the Indian market. Currently, the company will soon deliver works to Taj Santacruz Mumbai, Conrad Bangalore, Sheraton Bangalore and Radisson Plaza Mumbai.

www.lasvit.com

Mumbai gets the first And More Stories store

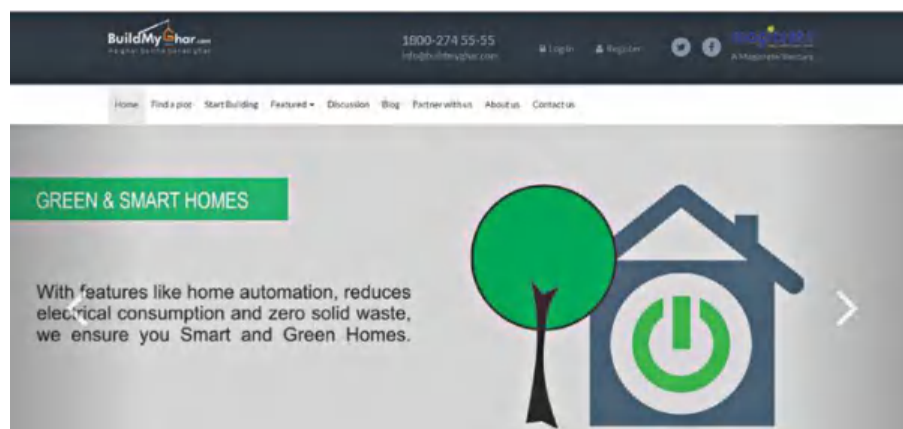


THE MAXIMUM CITY HAS A NEW LUXURY furniture and design store — And More Stories. Nestled in the furniture hub of Raghuvanshi Mills at Lower Parel, the store is spread over an area of 3,000 sq ft. It features a selection of luxury furniture, exclusive lightings and outstanding artefacts from brands like Ligne Roset from France, Cattelan Italia from Italy, Himolla from Germany and their very own in-house creations. On entering the premises, one is greeted by two

sections that display Ligne Roset iconic sofas, tables, wall and hanging lights. Further down there is a dedicated home theatre section comprising of recliners, consoles and coffee tables. Two areas in the store are dedicated to sofas with multifunctional recliners that can be customized as per one's requirement. Two dining areas with products from Cattelan Italia are also on display at the store.

www.andmorestories.com

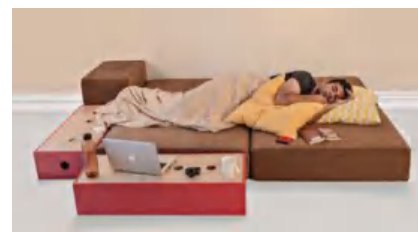
Construct dream homes with Buildmyghar.com



MAGICRETE BUILDING SOLUTIONS, India's frontline manufacturer of AAC Blocks, is offering a platform called Buildmyghar.com. Through this online portal individual home builders (IHB) can select plans and get their dream home constructed on their existing plot (or buy a plot from the platform) in four steps

process. The houses will be built using prefabricated construction technology as modular elements in a factory, and assembled on site by certified contractors, all in 60 days' time. Apart from this, Buildmyghar.com is also a 'virtual office' for architects to upload their plans/designs. www.buildmyghar.com

Bounce sofa by Furlenco



BANGALORE-BASED FURLENCO, an online furniture rental company, has launched a one-of-its-kind user-inspired piece of furniture called Bounce. This versatile sleep-and-lounge piece transforms from a cushy lounger by day to a platform bed by night. Customers can pre-book the furniture piece and enjoy free doorstep delivery and installation. This product also houses speakers with inbuilt wire-management system, which makes it a party station for a group of friends or for a lazy Sunday afternoon spent with loved ones. The entire furniture package is made of anti-skidding material at the bottom that makes it absolutely durable.

www.furlenco.com

New Ivy store in Delhi



IVY CONCEPTS HAS UNVEILED ITS showroom at A-13, FIEE, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi. The multi-floor flagship showroom is dedicated to three premium brands — IVY by designer Neetu Arora; Coleccion Alexandra, a Spanish luxury furniture brand by Maria Jose Guinot and Alexander & James, a top UK brand known for ingeniously crafted English style sofas. The limited edition collection comprises hi-end beds, sofas, chairs, consoles, lightings, and an exclusive range of home decor accessories. www.ivyconcepts.com

The Interlace named World Building of the Year 2015



OMA AND BURO OLE SCHEEREN'S

vertical village in Singapore, The Interlace has been named the World Building of the Year 2015 at culmination of the World Architecture Festival (WAF) in Singapore. The project beat 16 other category winners including a bamboo community centre in Vietnam, a domed transport hub in New York, amongst others. Conceived as the antithesis to tower blocks, The Interlace is made up of

31 apartment blocks (each six-storied and 70 meters long) stacked diagonally, and arranged around eight main courtyards. The large multi-storey voids between blocks allow light and ventilation across the site. It is spread over 1,70,000 square meters, and contains 1,400 square units.

www.dezeen.com/2015/11/06/ole-scheeren-the-interlace-vertical-village-singapore-building-of-the-year-2015-world-architecture-festival-2015/

LA's new streetlamps to keep mobiles on after a disaster



LOS ANGELES IS THE FIRST CITY IN THE world to install Philips-branded SmartPoles to help boost broadband coverage throughout the city. These poles are outfitted with 4G

LTE wireless technology by Ericsson and energy-efficient LED bulbs. This step is being taken by the city of LA to keep citizens connected even when cell networks are down after a debilitating natural disaster. Each pole will be connected to the network by a fibre link, which will help keep a steady connection. The location of the poles — which are closer to the streets and footpaths where people are actually using their phones than central cell towers — will give the network the advantage of being more equally dispersed across the region. This new technology isn't Philips' first success with LA. Earlier this year, LA adopted the company's CityTouch, a mobile and cloud-connected system keeping the city's street lighting efficient and easier on the environment.

<http://inhabitat.com/las-new-street-lamps-will-keep-cell-service-running-after-an-earthquake/>

FYI



Folk Strangers

1st December 15 to 7th December 15
Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Center,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003
Tel: (011) 43662024, 43662025

Versatile Artist Neeraj Gupta is back with his signature style grotesque heads in his solo show Folk Strangers. Here the artist explores between perceived reality and the creativity of human mind by giving form to it. These heads can be best described as variegated, bizarre or moiled, quaint and pied.



Anjolie Ela Menon

26th November 15 to 31st December 15
Art Musings Gallery, 1 Admiralty Building,
Colaba Cross Lane, Mumbai 400005
Tel: (022) 22163339

Art Musings presents a solo exhibition of recent works by acclaimed artist Anjolie Ela Menon. The present suite of paintings sees the artist revisit some of her favoured motifs. One can detect traces of the Greco-Roman and the Byzantine traditions of secular portraiture and sacred image-making.

Please note: For insertion in this column, we require details of upcoming events at least a month in advance. We request you to send in event schedules to: deepa.nair@network18publishing.com Updates on events is at the discretion of the organizers. Information is valid at the time of going to print.

Book Review

A BOOK WHICH CAPTURES THE TRANQUILITY AND BEAUTIFUL STYLES OF THE TRADITIONAL HANOKS OF KOREA.

Hanok: The Korean House



HANOK: THE KOREAN HOUSE

provides a glimpse into the nostalgic and fast vanishing vernacular homes, hanoks, in modern Korea. Built over centuries, "Hanoks were built by master carpenters who designed the house on site, often as it was built," write the authors in the introduction to the book. Intrinsic to the design of the hanok was the material that it was constructed, which was closely connected with the earth —

wood, stone, clay and paper. A wave of demolition and destruction claimed this valuable heritage of the country at the end of the 20th century, when large scale multi-family houses and apartment complexes replaced these carefully constructed traditional homes. Sometime back the connoisseurs of Korean traditional and culture started acquiring and restoring these homes; and the book highlights 12 such varied hanoks.

The diversity and style of design of the hanoks featured vary vastly... one such is the 19th century estate home House in Oi-dong that was moved lovingly by its owners from its centre city location in Seoul to the outskirts to preserve its character, through colonial rule and war. Hanoks such as the House of Continuous Learning is a seamless blend of the traditional with contemporary. An architect's private residence, this house is spectacular in minimalism, a combination of the traditional materials with minimal lines. In the House Simsimheon, the traditional hanok is an escape from modern cityscape. Interestingly, a quality of tranquillity, the breaking-free vibe and a deep connect with the elements are portrayed in all the hanoks. Especially effective are the hanoks that have imbibed a sense of contemporary without losing the quality of the



traditional. The incorporation of courtyards, small gardens, and framed views, offer a connection with nature. Jongkeun Lee's beautiful photographs bring to life the sanctuary like quality of these spaces. This book indeed portrays the richness of the Korean built culture.



HANOK: THE KOREAN HOUSE

Authors Nani Park and Robert J Fouser

Photographer Jongkeun Lee

ISBN-13 978-0804844674

Paperback 176 pages

Publisher Tuttle Publishing

(14 April 2015)

Availability Amazon India

Price ₹ 1,568

Reviewed by Varna Shashidhar

Art Walk

ARTIST MADHURI BADHURI'S WORK EMBODIES THE JOYOUS, CONTEMPLATIVE, REFLECTIVE REVIEWS OF WHAT TOUCHES HER SENSES DEEPLY.



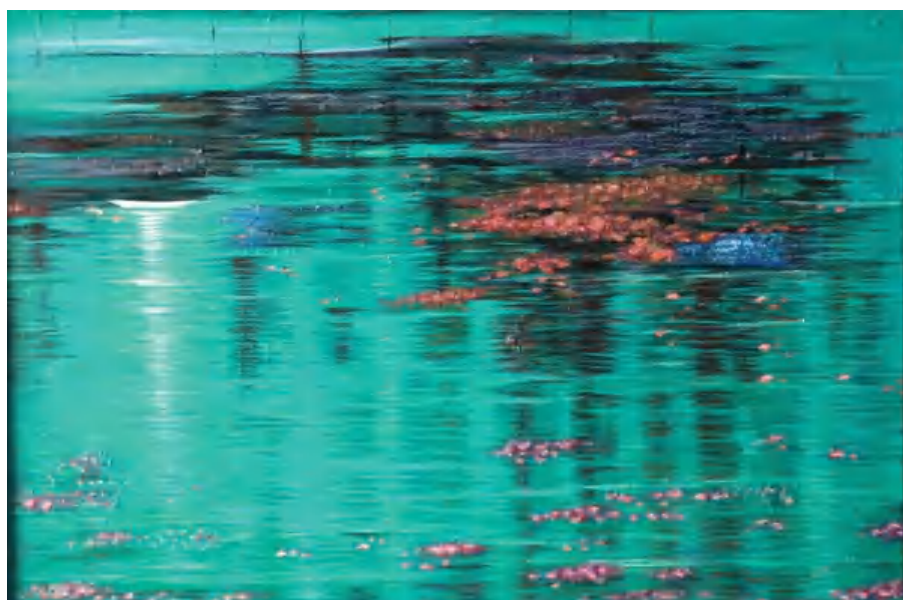
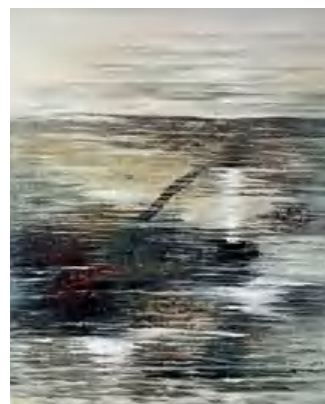
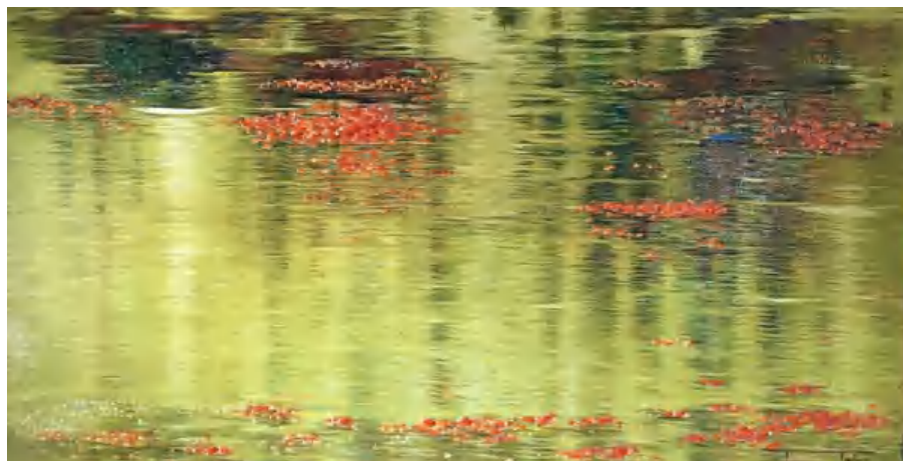
ARTIST

Madhuri Badhuri

PUNE-BASED ARTIST

Madhuri Badhuri has three decades of exceptional work to her repertoire. In her entire career span, Madhuri has traversed different trajectories of art: the representational, the abstract, and often a combination of both. Her early works were inspired by a gamut of imagery — the rising sun, bright clear skies, clouds, hills, houses, or waterbeds where she concentrated on the feel of the subject, the fundamental form and the colours which gave it fullness and life. Gradually, her paintings moved from the 'familiar', to the 'intangible and formless'. These works, textured and multi-layered, find rhythms in the different densities of colours: translucent yellows and whites juxtaposed against gloomy browns, moody blues and jubilant reds. While the list of her solo shows and group exhibitions are long and impressive; some of the most recent one's include an art show at the Gallery Art & Soul, Mumbai (2015); The Memory Chronicles, The Muse Art Gallery, Hyderabad (2015) and Ireland, Gateway to Europe at Novotel Pune (2014).

ANCHORED BY: ALIFIYA MEHANDADWALA, PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE ARTIST



www.madhuriart.com

Eco Beat

THE STUNNING LIVING PIXEL LIGHT FITTINGS CREATED BY KACAMA DESIGN LAB ARE CRAFTED FROM DISCARDED ADVERTISING BANNERS.



PRODUCT DESIGNERS

Kay Chan Wan Ki, Match Chen Siu Wa, Catherine Suen Ka Hei

KAY CHAN WAN KI, MATCH CHEN

Siu Wa and Catherine Suen Ka Hei studied Sustainable Product Design at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2010. After realizing that they worked really well as a team and shared the same aspirations, they formed the KaCaMa Design Lab. The studio's core philosophy is centered around upcycling, reduced impact on the environment and community involvement and education. Their most striking work Living Pixel is an apt example of this ethos. It is a series of light-fittings and lampshades made with discarded advertising banners. The women workers of the Hong Kong Women Workers Association (who stitch the banner pieces) and ECOLS (an eco concept store which supplies the banner material) are integral to this project. Here, each light shade is created individually by selecting the right banners specific for each re-used stand, sorting out matching colours and sewing each patch by hand to build that perfect irregular shape. The lights are created by deliberately keeping the white side facing outwards — when the lights are off, they appear to be white; once lit, they glow with a colour from within.



Perfect 10

MEET ARCHITECT RAJIV PAREKH, WHO BESIDES DESIGNING BEAUTIFUL BESPOKE HOMES FOR HIS CLIENTS; ALSO WANTS TO REDESIGN THE IRON MAN'S USURIOUS HOUSE!



ARCHITECT

RAJIV PAREKH

Tell us about the team at Red Architects... does your collaborative energies come together to form the firm's design philosophy? And what would your philosophy be?

The most operative word about "team Red Architects" is team — it has really helped our design language to evolve. It has also increased our ability to deal with each design challenge that we face. All in-house design ideas are open to constructive criticism from the other members of the team. This proves to be a huge benefit to the end users as the decisions have already been whetted by the differing design strengths of multiple individuals.

Red Architects' design offerings runs across product design, interior design, architectural design and urban design... which is closest to your heart, and why?

I would say right out of school, pure architectural projects were closest to our hearts. However, we realized that what is most important to the client is their experience as they move through any space and their tactile perception of it. Everything they touch, smell and see constitutes their memory and association of a space. Thus, interior design, product design and furniture design as essential and integral facets of design began capturing our imagination. Currently, I am agonizing over a detail of how wood and brass should ideally work together.

Which is that one essential element found all across your work?

Clear and functional resolution of details.

Has "individuality" in projects become a deterrent in creating something out-of-the-box?

Not really. Individuality allows us to create customized solutions to design problems. Designing something out-of-the-box is always nice, but not always the correct design approach. So we design personalized out-of-the-box solutions when the site and client's brief demands it.

The big projects keeping you busy these days?

It is very fulfilling to be engaged in a broad range of projects from office interiors, to a small home, to a 20

lakh square feet residential development in Goa. A few years ago we built one of the largest bungalows on Juhu beach and recently the client has come back to us for a hospital project and a residential development for his charitable trust.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE...

How do you unwind after a busy, long day?

My children are my biggest de-stresses and it is a great feeling to come back home to their hugs and smiles.

One book you keep going back to?

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. It is my first-born's favourite and no matter how many times I read it to her, I still enjoy going back to it.

If you would be any character in fiction... who would you be, and why?

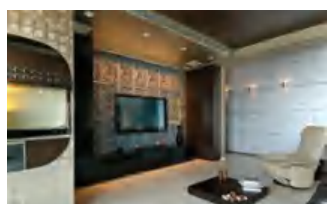
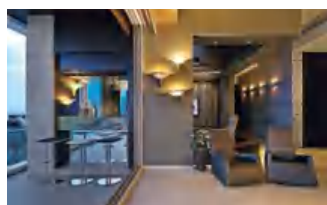
Iron Man — and not because I care about saving the world, I would simply love to rebuild his outrageous house hanging on the edge of the cliff over the ocean!

A funny incident from your design career...

We had a client once who entered every meeting with bodyguards that carried AK47s! He was one guy I never argued with.

If someone were to write your biography, what would the title be?

The Search Continues...



ANCHORED BY: DEEPA NAIR PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY RED ARCHITECTS

HIGH Five!

WE BRING YOU FIVE STYLISH WATER CLOSETS AND BIDETS WHICH WOULD ADD MORE GLAMOUR TO YOUR BATHROOMS.



1

ROCA INDIA

This wall hung clean rim water closet from the Gap collection is made from vitreous china. Clean Rim allows the water flow to circulate along the whole inner perimeter, achieving higher efficiency in the water flush down on the inside of the bowl. Moreover, it does not have furrows, edged angles, corners or gaps in the surface, making it easier to clean.

`12,000 onward



2

KOHLER INDIA

The Pureclean bidet seats can perfectly fit on a variety of toilets as it comes in three shapes. A retractable wand, an adjustable front and rear wash, water pressure control, a non-corrosive body and single easy-to-use lever to control functions are some of its important features. Also notable is the gentle cleansing offered by Pureclean that helps kids clean themselves more thoroughly and promotes awareness of the benefits of cleanliness.

`6,999



3

FCML INDIA

The common design feature of WCs and bidets in the Kartell by Laufen range is their conical shape. The WCs have an equally powerful flush with 6/3 litres and with 4.5/3 litres. The wall-mounted WC and bidet are fastened to the wall with a new assembly system — this renders the use of protective covers obsolete and the surface remains smooth and easy to clean. All WCs and bidets are available in white with Laufen Clean Coat white and matte white.

Price on request



5

VITRA

The V-Care range of shower toilets has been designed by the design studio NOA. The series is made with a specially designed nozzle spray that allows the user to regulate the water as desired. It can be used via a remote control for nozzle position, water pressure and the temperature of the water and the seat. Other features include a rimless design of the inner bowl and hidden installation of V-Fit.

Price on request

VILLEROY & BOCH

The wall-mounted Subway 2.0 wash down toilet is made of vitreous china. It has a concealed trapway and a D-shape bowl with a water use of 1.6/0.8 gpf (gallons per flush). The Ceramicplus surface of this toilet ensures easy-care and dirt repellent. With Ceramicplus water immediately form droplets that simply flow off the surface, taking the dissolved dirt and lime scale with it.

Price on request



4

PICK of the Month

BOXED INNOVATION



Hafele India, Mumbai Design Center:
No 2 Filix Building, LBS Marg, Bhandup
(W), Mumbai 78; Tel: 25969660;
Website: www.hafeleindia.com



GOOD EARTH

Eternal Kashi, Good Earth's latest design collection, celebrates the colours and weaves of the place which lies on the banks of the sacred Ganga; and is the oldest living city in the world with an unbroken tradition of learning and knowledge — Banaras. The city was earlier known as Kashi, which translates to 'the shining one.' The colour most associated with the famous Banarasi silk (a deep purple shot with orange or a deep pink) coupled with the exquisite brocade weaves in silver and gold come together to form the Kashika range of hand-woven Banarasi textiles. The festive collection Kashi includes cushions, candle-stands and diyas. Then there is Anjali the hand-block printed bed story, which is based on ritual offerings. A unique tableware design called Rasa is inspired from the temple flowers that line the ghats of Varanasi.

Products inspired from old cities, from eras gone-by; and the newest contemporary trends...



INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE BRANDS (IFB)

Exquisite sofas from the British luxury brand, Parker & Farr will now be available at IFB. Their newest collection includes the Clive sofa (in options of three seater, two seater, chair and footstool); Josephine (in three seater, two seater and chair options) and the grand Elliott sofa. Featured here is the contemporary classic Storyteller. Here, elegant scroll arms and a deep buttoned back create a simple but exquisite sofa suitable for foyers, entrances and alike. Available in two variants, the Storyteller comes with a plain, fluted or buttoned back and upholstered in Sanderson Cocos offering a beautiful, fun look.



COCOON FINE RUGS

Fashion designer Varun Bahl joined hands with Cocoon Fine Rugs to create a league of phenomenal rugs with extraordinary quality. Called the Baroque Garden, the collection is inspired from the Baroque era, and consists of six exquisite designs — Baroque Maze, Baroque Damask, Floral Trail, Vintage Broken Damask, Floral Tapestry and Vintage Baroque Frames. The range uses a sophisticated neutral palette with soft beiges and gold which makes it adaptive to any decor setting. Each rug has been spun by hand and uses over-twisted wool which is a blend of Afghani and Argentine wools and handspun silk. The silk motifs of the collection have been carved by hand to create a beautiful high and low texture variant, adding a touch of drama.



VISIONNAIRE

This luxury decor brand is now home to noted Italian sculptor Stefania Pennacchio's latest collection Esedre, which features a series of experimental, highly evocative Raku ceramics. Combining both historical and contemporary references, Esedre reflects the artist's ongoing exploration of identity and, specifically, the complex female universe in light of classical mythology, an area intimately linked to her homeland, Calabria. In these sculptures, Stefania embraces the traditional Japanese technique of Raku, and the results are breathtaking.



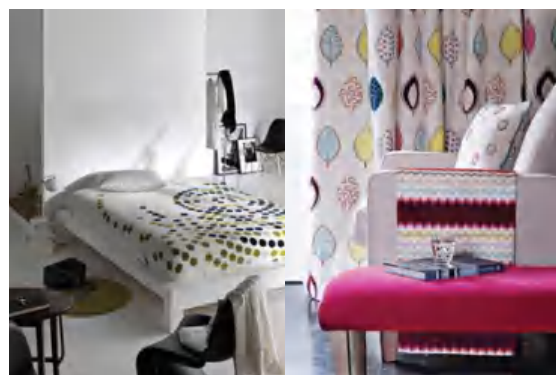
ADDRESS HOME

The brand has recently added an exquisite collection of purple and grey cushions and quilts to their linen collection. The range offers tones of aubergine, amethyst, lavender and other truly vibrant shades of purple that are perfectly complemented by gun metal, slate and pearly shades of grey. Featured here is the beautiful Veronica Embroidered cushion which is inspired by the diamond-checked violet-blue pattern, and has diamond shaped boxes that showcase minute works of a Venetian pattern. The stunning Piana Adda Cushion on the other displays intricate two-coloured hand embroidery. Abstract jade motifs run across the body, in alternate diagonal beadwork in a mix of purple, gold, beige and white tones. Prices start from ₹ 1,800 onward for the cushion covers, while the quilts are priced from ₹ 10,900.



ROCHE BOBOIS

Latest from the brand, the Winter Collection 2015, showcases graphic trends created by internationally renowned designers. The pieces that stand out include the Helix bookcase by Philippe Bouix, the Pollen bookcase by Sacha Lakic, the Suspens table by Cedric Ragot and the Booleans China Chest by Joël Escalona. Featured here is the Octet Corner Composition designed by Roberto Tapinassi and Maurizio Manzoni which is upholstered in two tone buffalo leather with a lumbar cushion in Cabaret Velvet. This magnificent sofa is adorned with Jean Paul Gaultier cushions and comes with an ottoman upholstered in velvet. The collection also offers a range of beautiful accessories that include stunning mirrors, rugs and sophisticated lighting that complete the luxurious collection.



MAISHAA

Piel Sa and Clarke & Clarke which are exclusively available with Maishaa have launched two new collections. Piel Sa's latest offering are blankets and bedspreads decorated with sophisticated, minimalist embossed geometric prints and timeless designs. Clarke & Clarke's Gustavo range of furnishing fabrics is both retro and Scandinavian with bold and contemporary patterns. The collection showcases techniques such as applique and embroidery on linen-mix grounds in designs Caper, Kristen, Henrika and Gina combine with Alvar, rich velvet available in 18 punchy shades.



FICUS FINE LIVING

This newest brand which is associated with Mumbai's famous lifestyle store The Great Eastern Home is a treasure trove for those looking for unusual outdoor furniture. Ficus Fine Living draws inspiration from nature to create a style that seamlessly blurs the boundaries between the outdoors and indoors, and merge materials, textures, colours, forms and finishing in ways that are contemporary yet timeless. The wooden furniture gains expressions from a great lineage of master carpenters like Kevan Anwar Bhai, whose is a stickler for details. Collection includes trunks, chairs, tables, benches, chests, lounge, racks, shelves and diwans. Some of the pieces from their limited edition collection are made from the hardwood of grand old Scandinavian ships that has weathered a thousand storms at sea.

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It's the season of giving. And in that spirit, we've curated a beautiful array of giftables, accessories, lights and furniture for home and hearth that will get you in the holiday mood; and have you nodding along in agreement with Andy Williams when he croons... *'It's the most wonderful time of the year'*.





Bandhini Home
Add festive flair to your living room with these elegant cushions from the Red Collection. While some of them are made from poly dupion, others have been stitched in cotton velvet and dupion silk.
₹ 1,430 onward



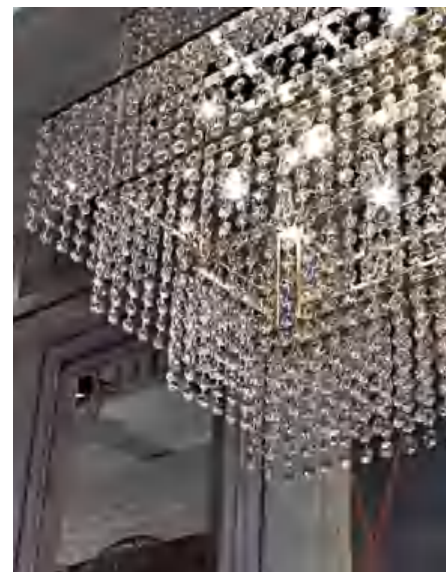
MKC
Created using the layering technique, this red rose felt cushion is just beautiful.
Price on request



Idus
Collectively called Flying Wall Bowls, these colourful pieces of wall art (made of iron) are suspended by invisible threaded pipes that are screwed into the wall, and make for unique additions to your home decor this festive season.
Price on request



Lladro
This porcelain figurine of a little girl showing her affection for Father Christmas brings with it old-time Christmas charm.
₹ 1,70,000



Visionnaire
A vision to behold, the sparkle from the luxurious Sunlight Chandelier will brighten up any living area. Comprising five decreasing levels of crystals, its steel structure is lacquered in gold, with 712 chains made of 22 mm crystals each.
₹ 1,46,3238



At Ease

All is calm and all is bright in a home adorned with these glowing white Christmas Tree t-lights.

₹ 2,250 (large) ₹ 1,450 (medium) ₹ 1,050 (small)



Elementto

Give your home a quick facelift for Christmas with this green wallpaper. Featuring a leafy motif, it will add warmth and make any room instantly feel more inviting.

Price on request



Pepperfry

Charm your guests during your Christmas party by hanging up this lovely multi-coloured papier mache 3-piece star set.

₹ 499



Renaissance Homez

These gorgeous dome-shaped fixtures, with light emanating from perforations, are an elegant way to illuminate your home for the festive season. They have been crafted from the alloys of brass and copper.

Price on request



Roche Bobois

A delicate web of aluminium thread atop a lacquered steel lamp post forms the Coco Maxi floor lamp. Designed by Matthias Bader, they are available in various colours — including festive ones of red and gold — with a lacquer finish.

₹1,81,440 (each)



Frazer and Haws

Representing the Garden of Eden and the forbidden fruit, this large red apple showpiece is hand-crafted in special porcelain. The entwined blossoms are created from silver-plated metal, zircon and gilded with 24-karat gold.

₹ 96,500



Ratan Jaipur

This bed cover and cushion set from the Sienna collection is a subtle way to incorporate festive colours in your home. Made of 100 per cent cotton, the floral motifs are hand-screen printed.

₹ 1,925



The Furniture Republic

Create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in your home with the contemporary Roxby table lamp that's crafted from aluminium and brass.

₹ 5,500



2Divine

Get organized the festive way with this classy magazine holder that doubles up as an accessory for your living room. It is made out of cardboard and high-quality golden paper.

₹ 2,500



Episode

Add a touch of glam to your home decor with this Tree of Life votive, which will make a stylish statement piece for your dining table.

₹ 1,540



Roche Bobois

You may not be spending this Christmas in the magical City of Lights, but this cherry red Fierre cushion, designed by Jean Paul Gaultier, lets you make believe. Made from a suede-like fabric, a spiral pattern with a silver metallic decal of the Eiffel Tower is imprinted on the front, while the back is a plain cream.

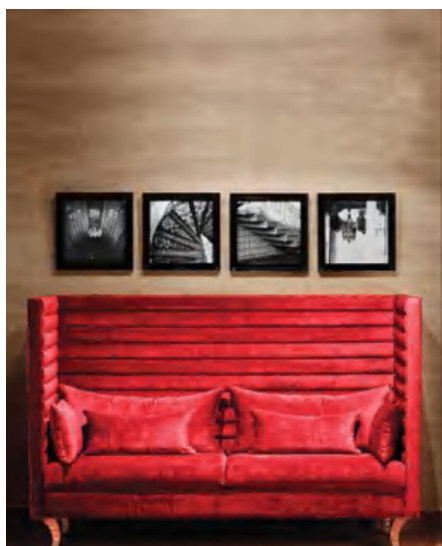
₹ 21,060



Swarovski

The Shimmer t-light is filled with hundreds of crystals. Light a candle inside and watch the whole room sparkle with warm golden hues, creating a sophisticated atmosphere.

₹ 2,890



Saibaa

Bring some drama into your living room with the Stiletto Red Sofa. Upholstered in red velvet, its stainless steel legs are shaped like the high-heeled shoes.

Price on request



Elementto

The striped metallic gold wallpaper will create a perfect balance of the traditional and contemporary in your home.

Price on request



Villeroy & Boch

With a miniature trio of beloved Xmas characters — Santa Claus, a snowman and reindeer — this ornament is an adorable addition to your Christmas tree.

Price on request



At Ease

These Christmas Star t-lights embody the sentiments of the season such as peace, joy and light.

₹ 850 each



Roche Bobois

Feel like royalty when seated in this Swan Bergere chair that's been designed in Louis XV style. The structure is solid beech, with tenon and mortise assembly. The seat, armrests and back are stitched in horsehair-like organic fibres.

₹ 5,72,018



Renaissance Homez

When lit, this intricate lamp will create a myriad of patterns on the wall. Alloys of brass and copper have been used to create this beauty.

Price on request



Safomasi

Zebras and kangaroos and llamas and elephants — oh my! A quirky, hand-printed stocking to hold all of Santa's goodies.

₹ 1,800



The Furniture Republic

This Christmas, gift yourself your very own private yacht — well, a miniature version anyway. This Ferrari-themed yacht has been crafted from solid dry wood.

₹ 29,900



Sanctum

These white fairy lights made of tissue fabric are a simple way to brighten up any space. They look especially lovely hanging around a Christmas tree or draped around a door-frame.

₹ 2,150



Houseproud

These pillow covers spread compliments of the season, and are a unique combination of natural and matte burlap-like linen accented with applique and embroidery, and welted with festive Indian brocade.

₹ 1,150



At Ease

Brighten up your home with lovely blooms placed in this Umber vase mouth-blown by a skilled artisan. The sturdy vase features thick walls and a jar-like neck that's been hand-sculpted with wooden tools.

₹ 17,900



The Furniture Republic

This modern bright red chair, made of polypropylene, is a bit of a work of art in itself and will liven up any dull corner in your home.

₹ 3,900



Frazer and Haws

A white Christmas in India may be unlikely, but that's no reason not to enjoy snowflakes. This coaster has been created out of red glass with a teak wood back. It is embellished with a dainty sterling silver snowflake motif with 24-karat gold touch ups.

₹ 6,200 each



Roche Bobois

Enclosed in cage-like structure, the three orange-hued chandeliers combine to make one stunning lighting fixture called Cages Dorees.

Price on request



Swarovski

A modern interpretation of a traditional Christmas symbol, the Christmas Ornament Star features clear crystals crafted by the Crystal Pixel technique and gold-tone metal parts, creating a 3D effect. The clear crystal star in the centre adds extra sparkle.

₹ 4,710



InV Home

The design of the Ourico t-light holder takes its inspiration from the sea urchin and is crafted in ceramic. It'll make an eye-catching contemporary accent for any table.

₹ 700



Apartment 9

Part of the Gemstone collection, this elegant glass embossed votive is available in gold and copper combinations with deep hues of gemstones.

₹ 425



The Furniture Republic

Visitors to your home are sure to admire this piece of wall art that can live up any bare wall. It has been crafted from metal with an antique gold finish.

₹ 7,500



Houseproud

These lovely snowflake cushion covers are sure to cheer up your Christmas decor. Matte burlap like linen has been appliqued with rich and festive Indian brocade.

₹ 1,150



Maspar

Add a luxe festive accent to your living room with this glitzy cushion cover. Stitched from deco velvet, it is part of the Eastern Elegance collection.

₹ 1,499 each



Address Home

Comprising a series of robust metal spokes that have been bent and joined at the centre, this decor accent that depicts sunrays radiating in their full glory is not just an accessory but a work of art.

₹ 1,290



Visionnaire

Add a regal touch to your dining room with the Balmoral candleholder. Aluminium and Swarovski bobèche add a stylish gleam.

₹ 1,53,990



Jaypore

Illuminate your home this festive season with this beautiful handcrafted wine floral string light.

₹ 1,390



At Ease

A traditional symbol of Christmas, no tree is complete without a star. Here are some painted in seasonal red with subtle embellishments.

₹ 395 (large) ₹ 320 (medium)



Bandhini Home

This deep red Lattice Weave cushion from the Lattice Red collection will enliven any neutral-coloured sofa or chair.

₹ 1,430



Apartment 9

Add some glamour to your living room decor with the silver Mina cushion cover that's woven from poly-viscose and embellished with brass.

₹ 2,700



Bandhini Home

A great option for bright and festive upholstery is this Oxblood Euro cushion that's been stitched in poly dupion.

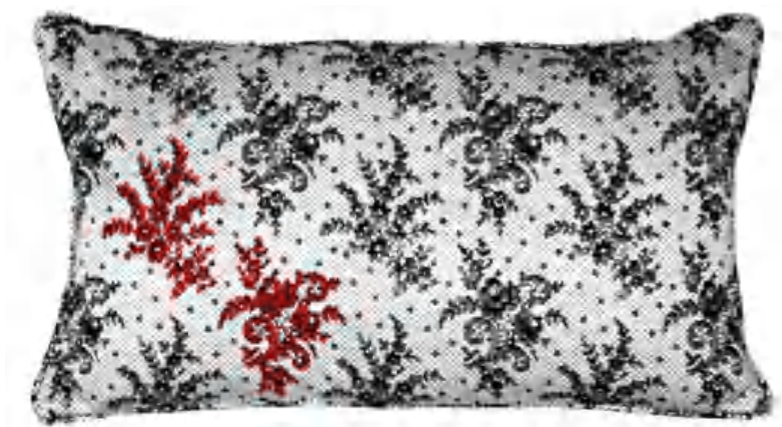
₹ 1,650



Villeroy & Boch

The Fairytale Park Seven Dwarfs t-light holder is reminiscent of simple Christmas decorations from a time gone by.

Price on request



Roche Bobois

This rectangular cushion is a chic Christmas-themed accessory for your living room this season. Called Douceur and designed by Jean Paul Gaultier, the front is embroidered in JPG Casino Graphite fabric.

₹17,618



The Furniture Republic

Shaped like a cup and saucer, this red Macenta chair made from polypropylene fibreglass is a fun Christmas addition to your dining table.

₹6,900



The Furniture Republic

A glamorous update on a traditional Christmas wreath, this piece of wall art comes in a metallic gold finish.

₹11,500



Visionnaire

Having a Pastore e Bovina Design, both the Glicine and UT Apes vases have been modelled by hand in Limoges porcelain. The delicate patterns on the vases have been created in crystalline and gold.

₹2,19,950 (Glicine) ₹1,88,116 (UT Apes)



Visionnaire

Designed by Philippe Montels, the gorgeous Gundo chandelier comprises a series of golden plates hanging elegantly in a curve from a gold base. A definite show-stopper.

₹10,97,428



Villeroy & Boch

This large book of fairytales lies open to a chapter from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs written in an old German script. Made of porcelain, this lovely showpiece is part of the Fairytale Park collection.

Price on request



Kahla

Designer Laura Gors transforms a simple porcelain plate into a winter landscape replete with a roe buck peeking out from behind a tree. The plate is part of the Winter's Tale series.

Price on request



Visionnaire

The Ghibli ceramic vase, available in a shimmering gold and platinum finish, adds to the festive decor of any home.

₹ 1,37,070



Episode

An intricate jewellery box like the Amalthea box will make a perfect gift for the woman in your life. Made of brass, it has an antique feel with a design carved over a deep green surface.

Price on request



Alchemy De Luxe

Beautiful lotus bunches in silver and bronze add festive flair to these sparkling crystal vases that will make stylish centrepieces for a living or dining room.

Price on request



2Divine

These delicate latticed cuffs are the perfect gift for a loved one, just in time for festive and year-end parties. They are crafted from real diamonds and 18-karat gold.

Price on request



Renaissance Homez

Add some sparkle to a friend's Xmas celebrations and gift them this trio comprising a candle stand, jar and clock all in Waterford crystal.

Price on request



Elvy

Take your pick from these dainty cake stands as a token of appreciation for the friend who's always dishing out fragrant and delicious Christmas treats. While the Lace cake stand is of glass, the Rosette cake stand is of porcelain and the gorgeous Lambert cake stand is made of metal with a glass lid.

₹ 2,095 (Lace 3 Tier Cookie Jar) ₹ 1,595 (Lace Cake Stand) ₹ 2,295 (Lace Petit four Cake Stand) ₹ 2,295 (Rosette Cake Stand) ₹ 4,295 (Lambert Cake Stand-Large)



Idus

Brighten up your host's Christmas dinner with this crystal candelabrum. Designed to complement each other, the polished crystal stand looks stunning as an accent piece as well.

Price on request



Arttdinox

A rose quartz bud forms the highlight of this Pink Bloom dinner set. The set is made of stainless steel, while the floral artwork has been drafted and hand-hammered on its surface.

₹ 41,160



Elvy

This Rossete tea set, coffee mugs and cake cup are an elegant choice for those who entertain often. The fine porcelain offsets the intricate rose design. Pair it with the ceramic electric kettle also adorned with a beautiful floral motif.

₹ 5,995 (kettle) ₹ 4,595 (tea set)

₹ 1,295 (for four coffee mugs)

₹ 1,095 (for two cake cups)



Episode

Crafted from brass, this handy candy dish, swirl bowl and nut bowl together form a smart festive gift that makes for a quick go-to when you aren't sure what to get your host.

₹ 2,300 (nut bowl)



Alchemy De Luxe

These three nut bowls of varied shapes and sizes come with glass jars and silver lids. The cutwork and detailing add a dose of glamour and interest. Price on request



Lladro

This porcelain figurine recreates a classic scene in intricate detail — Santa Claus is atop a snow-laden roof, about to climb down the chimney with a huge sack overflowing with dolls, airplanes, toy trains, teddy-bears, books.

₹ 1,33,400



Swarovski

Delicate, elegant and festive, these crystalline toasting flutes will add romance to any evening. Adding to the luxe feel are the gold-plated metal stems filled with golden shadow crystals.

₹ 22,260



Address Home

Elegantly accented with a beautifully crafted birch branch on the lid, this ivory jar will blend with any setting.

₹ 13,901



The Furniture Republic

Called Chirpy Birds, this set of four mugs is a cheerful gift for someone who enjoys sipping coffee on cold winter nights.

₹ 499



2Divine

When attending your next Christmas soiree, make a statement by presenting your host with a wine bottle dressed in this trendy wine holder that's made out of fine quality cardboard and printed *khadi* paper.

₹ 2,475



Alchemy De Luxe

For a traditional gift that's both timeless, yet contemporary in feel, look no further than these gilded rice dishes with an accompanying glass tray and spoon.

Price on request



Alchemy De Luxe

This silver textured snack platter adorned with pink Murano glass in the centre is an eye-catching addition to one's festive crockery.

₹ 5,500



Visionnaire

Handcrafted in ceramic and finished in gold, this butterfly has been designed by Alessandro La Spada and Samuele Mazza. Whether perched on a dining table or wall, it's bound to turn heads.

₹ 16,562



Visionnaire

This Esmeralda perfume diffuser will have one longing for an era when the lady of the house would languorously get ready by a mirror in her boudoir before stepping out for a soiree. Designed by Alessandro La Spada, the gold, diamond textured crystal bottle comes with a square pedestal base and a pump covered with knitted fabric and a gold tassel.

₹ 1,02,667



Episode

This Christmas, spread a little light where you go with these Shimmer candle stands.

₹ 2,350 (large)

₹ 1,650 (small)



The Furniture Republic

Crafted from aluminium and gold, The Commodore (inspired by the naval rank) is a grown-up upgrade to the toy ships one would receive as Christmas presents as children.

₹ 10,900



Elvy

Made from lacquered wood, this salad bowl from the Sienna collection will perhaps help ease the general culinary excess of the season. Coasters, trays and salad servers are also part of this range.

₹ 2,695 (four coasters) ₹ 2,895 (small tray) ₹ 3,995 (large tray) ₹ 2,595 (salad bowl) ₹ 1,695 (two servers)



Villeroy & Boch

With drawers decorated with gold accents and numbered 1 through 24, here's a stylish Advent Calendar to fill with goodies and count down the days to Christmas.

Price on request



Visionnaire

The elegant Gordon vase, shaped from white enamelled ceramic, is versatile enough to match a variety of decors. The logo as well as the conical top is available in two variants: platinum and bronze.

₹ 1,70,980



Alchemy De Luxe

Clad in silver and 24 karat gold leaf, the Tulip photo frame is a classic gifting choice.

Price on request



Roche Bobois

Designed by Cedric Ragot, the Beam table lamp will be a great addition to a loved one's living room or bedroom. The Murano blown glass lampshade stands tall on enamelled ceramic legs.

₹ 1,59,975



Visionnaire

With an art deco sensibility, the Rosa Rosae vase is handcrafted from Limoges porcelain. Giving it company is the Cervus made from the same material. The delicate structure and elaborate detailing make them enviable showpieces.

₹ 2,13,390 (Rosa Rosae) ₹ 2,03,800 (Cervus)



Villeroy & Boch

Called Santa's Story time, this wonderful porcelain figurine shows a little girl engrossed in her favourite holiday tale being read out by Santa. An innocent sight to fill hearts with good cheer.

Price on request



Lladro

The porcelain showpiece, with a cute puppy that can't wait to help its master open a present on Christmas Day, will take one back to their own childhood spent impatiently eyeing gifts that lay under the tree.

₹ 24,000

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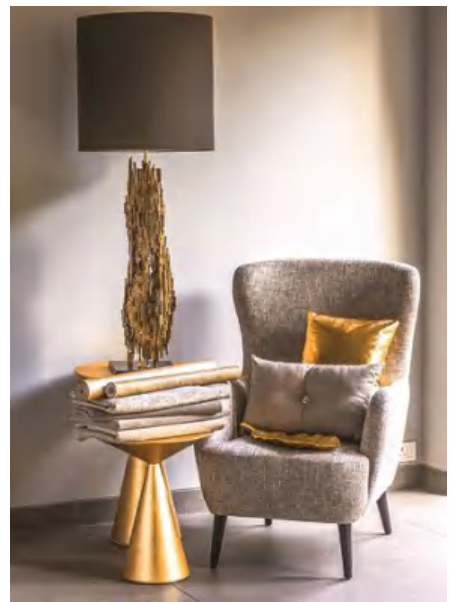


XMAS VOGUES



It's that time of the year when the baubles, fairy lights, stockings and other festive decorations are dusted and prepped for the Christmas tree. But what about your home? To get your household Christmas-ready to welcome your loved ones in style, we roped in six industry experts to share not just some Xmas decor tips and tricks, but also to give you a low-down on what's hot in the Indian Christmas scene.

ANCHORED BY: DEEPA NAIR; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE BRANDS



SIMONE

The trends for Christmas 2015 show minute changes compared to last year. Colour trends this year will see tones of silver, gold and champagne. In 2014, clear and frosted glass and crystal along with acrylics made a statement in home decor and these will make a comeback this time around, especially in the form of baubles, spheres and icicle decorations. Frosted decorations evoke the sense of a winter wonderland and can be used with elegant finishes and daintily mixed with tones of champagne or natural colours.

Natural textures, incorporated through the use of natural wood finishes, and textured fabrics are also trending this season. Lighter wood tones combine well with beige and whites for a European look

and feel, while darker ones, when mixed with traditional Christmas colours, offer a warm and natural appeal. Shades of forest browns and snow whites are a big influence this holiday season.

With their appeal lying in their glitz and warmth, metallics are here to stay. Tones range from all-time favourites such as glittering gold and platinum, to copper, bronze, pewter, and silver, which serve mainly as accent colours. This Christmas will see a dedicated use of metallics, which form a striking combination when used with a neutral palette. This combination exudes lustre, luxury and sophistication.

Simone Arora is the director of up-market Mumbai-based lifestyle store Simone.



Simone Arora



Parunshi Aggarwal Gupta

STUDIO CREO

Christmas in India is celebrated with a lot of pomp and gaiety. It happens to be a favourite among cheerful holiday decor themes that enthusiasts and homeowners love to explore, which further adds to the fun and excitement while planning our spaces for the season. Though the traditional colours of Christmas have always been red and green, it's always fun to improvise and come up with new ideas.

Be it a glam holiday party or refreshing a room's decor, try your hand at infusing your home with elegant golden hues this Christmas. From flooring and wallpaper, to tableware and luxury furnishings, gold is in vogue this year. Incorporate it into your home decor, and you'll soon discover how chic it is with the modish vibe it lends. Gold also helps radiate warmth through your home, making it all the more inviting. Lustrous metallic tones work in every setting, from the living room to the bedroom.

Choose furniture which can enhance the gold palette. This could be as simple as an amber Parisienne model monoblock chair, entirely made of polycarbonate, stackable up to four chairs high. The chair is characterized by rounded shapes and the absence of sharp edges. It evokes the soft style of the classic French bistro chairs of the early 1900s. Extremely functional, with a unique design, these chairs can be arranged in the kitchen, at the bar, or in the outdoor area.

Let your front porch sparkle with mini Christmas lights and golden glittering votives. Embellish a green Christmas tree with hints of gold, as well as red, to enhance the seasonal look and feel. Red, green or clear lights work best while jewel-toned ornaments give one's Christmas tree a classy touch. Shiny gold baubles not only look good on trees but also make for a beautiful centrepiece when neatly tucked in a bowl of greens.

Parushni Aggarwal Gupta is the founder and creative director of Delhi-based lifestyle brand, Studio Creo.





SARITA HANDA

Christmas is all about spreading joy, happiness and spending time with your family in your beautiful home. The essence is in the spirit of giving and sharing a warm moment with your loved ones. To make the holiday more memorable, brighten up your home with lots of fresh seasonal plants and flowers. Red poinsettias look great, and green fir or pine trees, traditionally used as Christmas trees and wreaths, are the perfect decoration for this holiday.

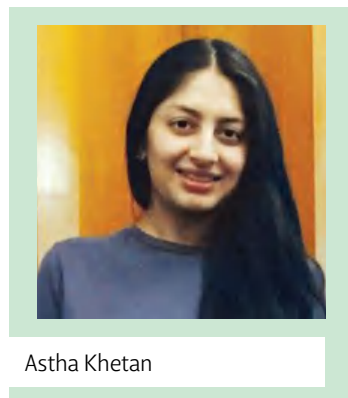
For decoration, lustrous fabric like silk or satin can be wrapped around flowers pots and gift boxes and then tied up with raffia thread, creating an appealing contrast between the rough and raw and the smooth and shiny.

Similarly, a contrast can be created with brown paper packing held together by red, gold or silver satin or metallic ribbons. The silver and gold make great accents amidst the existing seasonal hues of red, green and ivory — this is the time to bring out those polished silver serving trays, bowls and spoons. Create a warm mood in your living space with candles and white fairy lights around windows, mirrors and plants. Velvet looks especially decadent this time of the year; update your sofa and lounge with printed velvet in rich colours and designs.

Sarita Handa is the founder and creative head of the famous furnishings brand Sarita Handa, with stores in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chandigarh.



Sarita Handa



Astha Khetan

THE HOUSE OF THINGS

Nothing surpasses the feeling of exultation at having successfully beautified your home. Start small — focus on decorating one or two rooms. Limiting decorations to the rooms in which the family hangs out makes those spaces more special.

Think beyond blooms when making an arrangement. Use seasonal elements like branches, berries and leaves in a vase or a container for a loose, organic vibe. Beautifully detailed artisanal ornaments stand out against a silhouette of natural elements. Bedeck your table using contemporary shimmering metallic accents to create the feel of a cosy, urban Christmas. Use a defining accent of organic colour to make the metallic accents pop. Glamorous gold is the flavour of the season, imbuing your home with a mega-luxe appeal.

Embellish your Christmas tree with jewel-toned ornaments and highlight it with clear lights for a classy appearance. Though red and green remain an all-time favourite, the use of shiny gold balls will do wonders for a brightly lit tree. The quirky and unusual is widely appreciated and animal motifs are in great demand. Be it feathers or velvet, use textures to create a picture of opulence. The key to creating the most stunning spaces this Christmas is to use certain statement elements to striking effect.

Astha Khetan is the founder of the online lifestyle store www.thehouseofthings.com.



ELVY

Winter chill is in the air and Christmas Celebrations have begun. It is the time of the year when we cherish our winter mornings in quilts, have people over in the evening and gather around fire pits, meet over a coffee or just have dinner gathering at home. It is the time of interesting conversations of the whole year which is about to end and high-spirited welcome plans for the upcoming year.

If you are planning on hosting a Christmas dinner, you obviously know that the ambience is what takes the lead and your table must be a surreal place to eat and have conversations with family and friends. Apart from the necessary scrumptious food and serene music, there are things you can do which will take your dinner to another level of awesome and make your dining room look Christmas-ready all the way.

Dole out the most delicious delicacies to your near and dear ones during this special occasion. Here's a guide for you to host a perfectly organized dinner gathering this Christmas. Go for a white and red theme. You can pick table textiles in red with a

classic white dinnerware. Accentuate your table top with hints of metallic gold. Adding gold definitely gives your decor an unparalleled edge.

Play a little with the decor and add fun decorative elements. Mistletoes, ribbons and Christmas balls are good options. Christmas doesn't mean you that have to be conventional and you can use anything which is pretty and gives light. Hurricanes bring a vintage touch to a dining table. A hurricane instead of a regular candle stand will create an even more beautiful ambience at your table.

An aura of the room is perfected by alluring to all the senses and fragrance plays a very important role in setting the mood. It gives your dining room a warm and pleasant feel. Christmas is all about lights and keeping a few candles around the room will make the place look heavenly. Lightly scented candles will complete your dining room and make it the best Christmas dinner ever.

Vandana Khosla is the founder and creative director of lifestyle brand Elvy which has stores in New Delhi, Gurgaon and Hyderabad.



Vandana Khosla





Abha Gupta

ICASA

With the onset of Christmas, most of us are prepping to give our regular spaces a makeover. Here is a go-to list for those looking for some fun and easy trends to redecorate your interiors. To start with, multi-functional furniture is trending and making a statement for being — as the name suggests — multi-functional. Think of a convertible table that can go from being a centre table to a dining table and then to gala dining table for soirees. Such furniture helps save space and allows the user to make the most of it. The next big trend is cushions; with very little effort, they brighten up the entire place. Moreover, they come in a variety of colours, which makes them even more attractive. Changing them at regular intervals in keeping with what's currently in vogue can do wonders.

A combination of anything sparkly and metallic can add both elegance and interest. Incorporate a little shine into your decor with furniture with metallic elements in gold, silver or bronze. Furniture and accessories in earthy tones and dark hues are best suited for Christmas. Pastel tones are also increasingly finding their way into festive decoration and home accessories this winter — their effect is dramatic, attention-grabbing and mystical. Besides this, sofas, armchairs, and sofa tables or side tables in the most luxurious velvet and leather fabric soften the overall look.

Abha Gupta is the ideator and inceptor of Mumbai-based lifestyle store ICasa.

All Aces

We've got an inside look at the ACETECH Alpha Awards 2015, a dazzling night that saw the architecture, design and construction industry come together to honour its pioneering members.

ANCHORED BY: DEEPA NAIR PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY ABEC EXHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES





The high-profile jury meet was held on the 16th of October at Mumbai's Hotel J W Marriot, Juhu.



The Master of Ceremonies at the ACETECH Alpha Awards 2015 was the talented duo Hussain Hussain Kuwajerwala and Ruby Bhatia.



The special entrance at the Sahara Star Hotel all decked up with lights and decorations for the gala awards night.



Associate sponsor for the awards, Burmester, had a special stall set-up to showcase their newest offerings.



The carpeted passageway leading to the Sapphire Hall was lined with details about the sponsors who contributed to this mega event.



Building materials major Everest Industries who were also the associate sponsors for the events displayed their innovative products at the venue.

On October 29th, 2015, Economic Times ACETECH, the popular exhibition that brings together the biggest brands and high-profile visitors under one roof for a synergistic relationship, had a grand opening. The same day witnessed the smashing debut of the ACETECH Alpha Awards 2015, which is a corporate networking event that brings together the leaders of the construction, architecture and design industry to celebrate excellence in their field. Earlier known as the ACETECH Felicitation and Gala Networking Night, the event was conceptualized in 2010 with a view to recognize the collaboration of many minds working together to create immortal structures that embody artistic

design and aesthetics. Pioneers from within the architecture, interior design and construction industries were felicitated for their accomplishments. This year, it was held at the grand Sapphire Hall at Sahara Star in Mumbai, and saw the crème de la crème of the industry gather to witness the honouring of top architects, designers and developers.

The ACETECH Alpha Awards 2015 were conferred on 10 design professionals under three main categories with subsequent sub-categories for architects, interior designers and developers. An encouraging 325 projects were received by the awards team. An extensive screening process followed and a total of 30 projects emerged as the



Bathroom major Roca India was the title sponsors for the awards; and this fantastic lounge area had pictorial representations of their products.



These beautiful cutlery and crockery is courtesy Stefano Ricci who supported the event as the Luxury Lifestyle Partners.



Gorenje, the innovations galore company when it comes to home appliances, was the Technology Partners for the event.



Playback singer Kanika Kapoor crooned a medley of foot-tapping numbers from recent Bollywood hits and got everyone dancing.



It is a laughathon once one of the country's most loved stand-up comedian comes on stage... Vir Das was funny, and how!



Frank Schloeder, Parminder Singh, Karim Rashid, Pooja Choudary and Manish Garg awarding architects Amit Patil and Shriya Parasrampur with the Alpha Award for Best Architect Residential Project.

final contenders. Ernst & Young (EY) was the official process and tabulation partner for the awards and they had their eagle eyes through the process of nominations, submissions and the deliberation of the winners. The final screening was conducted on October 16th at Mumbai's JW Marriot, Juhu. Elaborate presentations of shortlisted projects were showcased before the jury panel, who decided on the winners after a day-long discussion and deliberation.

The jury comprised Abdulla Attari (Founder of Inter Craft); Avishek Banerjee (Director, E&Y); Anita Dake (Founder of Vector Designs), Harsh Jain (Founder and Managing Director of Nestopia); Karan Sodi (National Director – Head Markets

at Jones Lang LaSalle); Deepa Nair (Editor, Better Interiors); Manoj Galani (Managing Director, Mayash Space Designs); Paresh Kapadia (Board Member, The Indian Institute of Architects); Nisha JamVwal (Architect, Contemporary Art Consultant and reputed columnist); Rajiv Mishra (Principal of Sir JJ College of Architecture); Ramesh R (Vice-President Sales, Roca India); Radha Kapoor (Founder and Director, Indian School of Design and Innovation); Sudhir Kulkarni (General Manager, IDBI); Rouble Nagi (Founder, Rouble Nagi Design Studio) and Vilas Avachat (Vice-President, Indian Institute of Architects.)

Coming to the winners in the Architecture category, Brick House by iStudio won the Alpha Award for Best Architect

Spotlight



Architect Sanjay Puri receiving the Alpha Award for Best Architect Hospitality Project from Frank Schloeder, Parminder Singh, Karim Rashid, Pooja Choudary and Manish Garg.



Frank Schloeder, Parminder Singh, Karim Rashid, Pooja Choudary and Manish Garg handing over the Alpha Award for Best Architect Commercial Project to architect Arjun Malik.



Architect Mahendra Baburao Chavan receiving his Alpha Award for Best Architecture Retail Project from Frank Schloeder, Parminder Singh, Karim Rashid, Pooja Choudary and Manish Garg.



Architect Puran Kumar receiving the Alpha Award for Best Interior Designer Residential Project from Pau Abello, Deepak Silan and Manoj Galani.



Architects Amey Kamat and Tushar Joshi collecting their Alpha Award for Best Interior Designer Hospitality Project from Pau Abello, Deepak Silan, and Manoj Galani.



Architect Yatin Patel receiving the Alpha Award for Best Interior Designer Commercial Project from Pau Abello, Deepak Silan and Manoj Galani.

Residential Project; D Caves by Sanjay Puri Architects took away the Alpha Award for Best Architect Hospitality Project; the GMS Grande Palladium by Malik Architecture was conferred the Alpha Award for Best Architect Commercial Project; while the 7 Star Multiplex and Retail Shopping Centre by Mahendra Chavan & Associates walked away with the Alpha Award for Best Architect Retail award. In the Interior Design segment; The Mango House by Puran Kumar Architects won the Alpha Award for Best Interior Designer Residential Project; Hotel Noor Mahal by Ozone Designs was awarded the Alpha Award for Best Interior Designer Hospitality Project; Microsoft Epitome Gurgaon by DSP Design Associates whisked away the Alpha Award for Best Interior Designer

Commercial Project and Nolte by KNS Architects was the jury favourite for the Alpha Award for Interior Designer Retail Project.

In the Developer segment, Splendor by Mahindra Lifespaces' bagged the Alpha Award for Best Developer Residential Project and The Capital by Wadhwa Group won the Alpha Award for Best Developer Commercial Project. Welspun Renewables was recognized for its sustainable practice. ACETECH also took this opportunity to give away special recognition awards to the maverick product designer Karim Rashid of Karim Rashid Inc; ARK—Reza Kabul Architects; Rustomjee and Kansai Nerolac Paints for their outstanding contribution to the industry.



Pau Abello, Deepak Silan and Manoj Galani handing over the Alpha Award for Best Interior Designer Retail Project to architects Shresht Kashyap and Kanhai Gandhi.



Smeeta Neogi, Ritesh Ghai and Vivek Gadhe from Mahindra Lifespaces receiving the Alpha Award for Best Developer Residential Project from Sunil Patel and Vipul Raval.



Siddharth Bhatia from The Wadhwa Group receiving the Alpha Award for Best Developer Commercial Project from Sunil Patel and Vipul Raval.



Karim Rashid handing over the Special Recognition Award for 'Outstanding quality of construction and use of space for recreational living' to Rustomjee.



Karim Rashid giving away the Special Recognition Award for 'Outstanding skill and innovativeness in high-rise design' to ARK- Reza Kabul Architects.



Karim Rashid gave away the Special Recognition Award for 'Sustainable Brand Practices' to Nerolac.

The event had a host of sponsors — Roca India was the title sponsors; while the show was powered by Mayash Design Studio. Loco Design was the Design Partner, BMW Infinity Cars the Luxury Automobile Partners and Stefano Ricci supported the event as the Luxury Lifestyle Partners. Everest Industries, Garnet Interiors and Burmester came onboard as the associate sponsors and Gorenje was the Technology Partners for the event. Speaking on the occasion, Pau Abello, Managing Director, Roca Bathrooms Products Pvt Ltd said, "ACETECH exhibitions is one of the greatest platforms in the country for all the stakeholders that are, in some way or another, connected to the construction, infrastructure or interior design landscape. ACETECH Alpha Awards brings us further closer to our

industry leaders with the presence of major personalities and industry pioneers and provides an informal platform to connect and socialize, which may lead to a great amount of knowledge-sharing and business development. Positive sentiments from the industry are also helping Roca to take innovative steps towards its growth and ACETECH knots them together. I take pride in telling you that recent ACETECH exhibitions at Mumbai and Bangalore turned out to be really successful for Parryware. ACETECH has enabled us to reach out to a wider audience as we work to spread our network through the country."

The event was attended by the top architects and interior designers, CREDAI members, reputed real estate



Manish Gandhi and Pau Abello felicitating the ace product designer Karim Rashid.



Important dignitaries from the world of design, construction and building materials graced the ACETECH Alpha Awards 2015.



This packed hall is testimony to the fact that the event was well attended by the architecture and interior design industry.



Frank Schloder, the Marketing Director of BMW India is all smiles.



Product designer Karim Rashid definitely made his colourful and inspiring presence felt at the ACETECH Alpha Awards 2015.



Pau Abello, the Managing Director of Roca India definitely seems to be engaged with what's happening on the stage.

developers from Mumbai among other key dignitaries such as Manish Garg (President, Everest); Manoj Galani (Director and Principal architect of Mayash); Parminder Singh (Founder of Loco Design); Pooja Choudary (CEO, BMW Infinity Cars); Vipul Balkrishna Raval (CEO, Gorenje); Sunil Patel (Managing Director, Burmester); Surender Kumar, Romiel Moses and Susan Moses (Directors, Garnet Interiors); Boman R Irani (Chairman and Managing Director, Rustomjee); Reza Kabul (Director and Principal architect, ARK – Reza Kabul); Hafeez Contractor (Founder and Principal Architect, Architect Hafeez Contractor); Vikas Oberoi (Chairman and Managing Director, Oberoi Realty); Abhishek Lodha (Managing Director,

Lodha Group); OP Puranmalka (Whole time Director & Chairman, Ultratech); Amey Kamat (Managing Director and CEO, Ozone Designs) and Tushar Joshi, (Associate Director of Ozone Designs) among others.

The awards night also saw some high-power signing by playback artist Kanika Kapoor on some energetic Bollywood number; while funny man Vir Das did what he does best — have the audience in splits with his standup. Talented actors Hussain Kuwajerwala and Ruby Bhatia donned the hats of emcees and kept the audience in high spirits with their witty remarks. The evening concluded on a high note with a promise for a more exciting evening next year.



ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST ARCHITECT RESIDENTIAL PROJECT — *Brick House by istudio*

The design for this eco-friendly farmhouse in Wada, Maharashtra sees each space flowing into another along curved lines, leading into a seamless space held by the central courtyard. The stark contrast of a stone entrance wall against the exposed brick work lends itself to the realization of texture of both materials. As one enters into the structure, one is greeted by the soft sunlight falling on the central body of water and the coolness within the structure. The interior space is dominated by the two huge arches of brick and stone, opening to vistas of farms and hills. The built form and space planning is driven by climatic conditions. Central courtyard helps inducing natural light and ventilation into interior spaces. The living room is located in the northern direction, with a large eye-shaped arch opening providing ambient light throughout the day. The south-west side of the structure is the highest point, thus providing shade to the courtyard and reducing passive heat gain.

ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST ARCHITECT HOSPITALITY PROJECT —

D Caves by Sanjay Puri Architects

Situated in Hyderabad, D Caves came with a simple brief, to create a recreational facility with residential accommodation. The design was wonderfully conceptualized to preserve the original landscape plot in its entirety — with 50 -0" high boulders! The interspersed rectilinear built spaces with the natural boulders create interesting juxtapositions and the internal spaces within the plot are perceived in varying compositions from each functional part of this small hotel. The architect created 27 residential rooms in three linear blocks on one side of the plot stepping down along the natural slope of the site. Service areas and food and beverage spaces including a restaurant, a bar and a sky deck are grouped together; occupying the north-west corner of the site. A health club, gymnasium and conference room forms another small building on the east side of the plot; while a recreational facility is accommodated in a separate small block on the south side.



ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST ARCHITECT COMMERCIAL PROJECT — *GMS Grand Palladium by Malik Architecture*

The site for the GMS Grande Palladium is in close proximity to a newly formed business district in the northern side of Mumbai city... it is far removed from the historic downtown zone. The site is surrounded by dilapidated structures slated for redevelopment, and, being one of the first sites to be developed, the architects wanted to try and create, through this building, a framework for the future. The superstructure is composed entirely of steel with a 16.0 m wide span central column grid providing flexible workspace; while the deflected structural shear skins transmit cantilever loads to the ground. The structural skins are expressed internally by recessing the internal membranes between the structural members. The building is 8.0 m above the ground thus liberating the street level to be inhabited by trees, water and judiciously scaled lobbies and a common cafe, thus eliminating the presence of a massive built-up form at the street level.



ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST ARCHITECT RETAIL PROJECT — *7 Star Multiplex and Retail Shopping Centre by Mahendra Chavan & Associates*

The design for the 7 Star Multiplex and Retail Shopping Centre at Satara, Maharashtra, is formed considering the public areas around the site which demanded ample parking space, pop up shops and a food court. Interestingly, this five-screen multiplex is the only multi screen theatre in the city! The building is divided into commercial and entertainment/leisure zones with a terrace proposed for multi-recreational functions. Parking area and shopping blocks are distributed in levels, in response to the site topography composing the basement, lower ground and upper ground floors. The upper ground floor has the main pedestrian entrance to the building which opens into a lobby with escalator, followed by a water curtain, food court and a art gallery with an atrium. The eye-catching facade with 45 degree tilted fenestration eliminates heat gain. A wide frontage of 22 m provides a birds-eye view of the building from the main road.



ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER RESIDENTIAL PROJECT — *The Mango House by Puran Kumar Architects*

Located in Alibaug, Maharashtra, The Mango House is the physical manifestation of a quest to connect with the natural environment. The essence of the house is the simplicity in thought and expression through the form, materials and decor of the structure. The site is dominated by mango trees and thus, conservation of these 100-odd year old inhabitants was key. The form of the structure was governed by their location on the North, South and East sides of the house. The entrance on all four sides along both the north-south and east-west ends leads to an uninterrupted view of the verdant landscape. There was a need for balance between the open and covered spaces. The form reflects an azonic flow of spaces across both levels without losing its proportion in design. The suspended steel staircase is the *raison d'être* of the house as its majestic presence dominates the interiors. A skylight here and another over the dining area underscore the feeling of vastness.

ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER HOSPITALITY PROJECT

— *Noor Mahal by Ozone Designs*

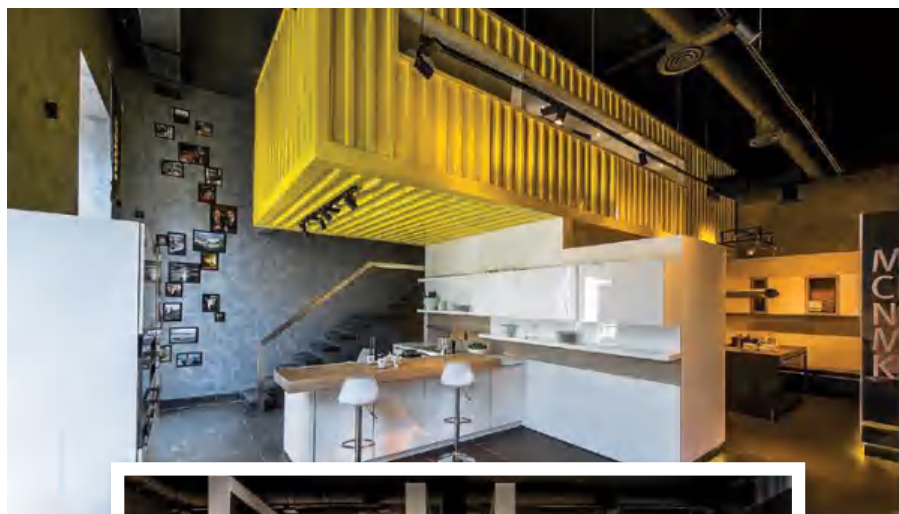
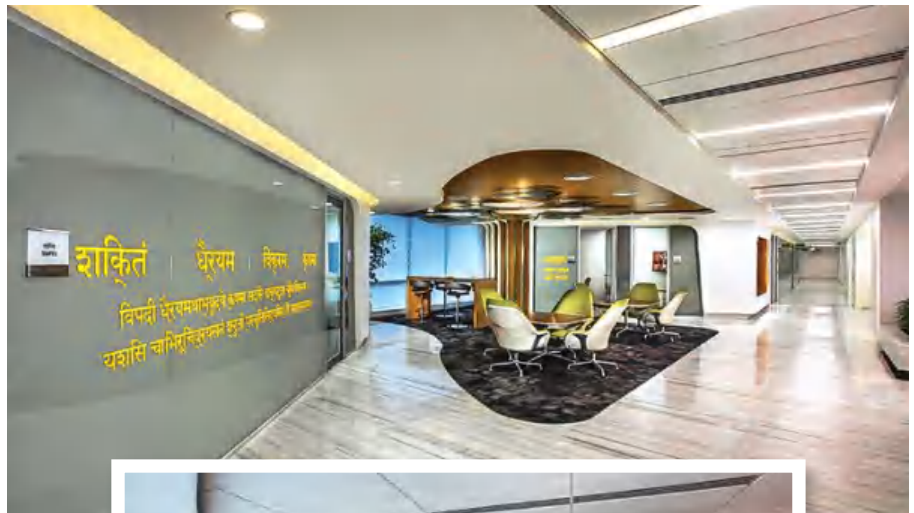
Noor Mahal, the five star deluxe luxury hotel is inspired by India's rich heritage and captures the royalty of the Indian maharajas over the centuries. The hotel has been designed with intricate details to capture the authentic essence of traditional Mughal and Rajputana styles of architecture. Stunningly set in eight acres of natural splendour, the hotel creates a unique world of exclusive facilities that virtually define extravagance and is a perfect blend of historic architecture and every conceivable modern amenity. The hotel is situated on the old course of river Yamuna traversing its way to Delhi NH-1, at Karnal. The hotel's intricate layout of interconnecting domes and corridors reflects the layout of a palace. These domes and walkways are flooded with sunlight, caressed by balmy breezes and offer magnificent views of the green fields across. Noor Mahal boasts of 122 rooms including a Presidential Suite, Khwab-Gah, 11 Suites, 78 Club Rooms and 31 Club Royal Rooms.



ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER COMMERCIAL PROJECT

— Microsoft Epitome by DSP Design Associates Pvt Ltd

The inspiration for the design is derived from the history of the origin of Gurgaon, where this office now stands. Gurukul was the theme selected as Gurgaon was home to one of the greatest teachers in Indian mythology, Guru Dronacharya. The office is designed as a collection of work neighbourhoods which are self-sufficient with their own desks, meeting rooms, booths, etc. They are connected and interdependent with each other for collaboration zones. There are no assigned workstations for anyone and employees can choose their workspaces. Infact, all seats in the office are work seats — be it a booth, cafe, breakout zone or collaboration zones. All the collaboration spaces converge into the central hub. There are folding partitions between cafe and training rooms which can be opened up for big townhall meetings. The columns of the entire office depict trees and the lights are in the form of foliage.



ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER RETAIL PROJECT — Nolte Showroom by KNS Architects

Situated in Mumbai, Nolte, the well known German kitchen and furniture brand wanted their product demonstration gallery to be unique and distinct, and wanted a continuous and cohesive visitor experience with a strong emphasis on brand recall. Imagined as a dark shell, the double volume space was painted black with a vibrant yellow container suspended from the ceiling; breaking the overall volume to create a “space within a space.” The linear cantilevered staircase forms a strong dark ribbon threading from the ground to the container, unifying the two spaces. The container doubles up as a feature element as well as the back office space. Further, flexible modules (in the form of floating partitions) were created for product display. Raw finished materials and industrial inspired forms fill the spaces above the display zones, whereas the display zones are kept neutral to accentuate the products. Exposed open ceiling and air conditioning duct, rough concrete flooring, and moveable partitions allow the spaces to be flexible.



**ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST DEVELOPER
RESIDENTIAL PROJECT — *Splendor* by
Mahindra Lifespaces**

Situated in Bhandup, a fast growing central suburb in Mumbai, Splendor is India's first Platinum Rated Pre-certified Green Residential Building. Recently, it has also been certified as a Platinum Rated Green Building. Splendor offers a choice of 2½ and 3 BHKs with areas ranging from 1,465 sq ft to 1,641 sq ft. The complex is spread across nine acres with five towers of 21, 23, 25 and 30 (2) storeys. Key features include the "wall to window ratio" which is designed to ensure that there is adequate ventilation and fresh air which leads to reduction in the usage of air conditioners and thus saves cost and energy. The project has 35 per cent area dedicated to green area landscaping. The usage of flyash bricks for the building envelope results in thermal comfort; whereas the low E-glass used reduces heat gain within the building.

**ALPHA AWARD FOR BEST DEVELOPER
COMMERCIAL PROJECT — *The Capital* by
The Wadhwa Group**

The Capital, situated at Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex, is a cutting-edge building with a timeless and contemporary exterior, and with a rich palette of colours and textures in the interiors. Embodying the integrated expression of innovative art with functional architecture, The Capital breaks the stereotypical 'match box' office building form to create a iconic building providing conducive and distinguished working environments coupled with exceptional services and facilities. Its design concept is derived from the idea of a raindrop falling onto a box derived at the moment of impact marking the instigation of change of form and program within the building. The building is enveloped with a glass facade, double glazed window wall system using high performance glass. All cores are planned in the center such that each office gets maximum natural light coming inside. The units are planned with minimal columns to ease efforts on interior planning for each occupier.





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A Marvelous Mix

The home in Bangalore, the cafe in Vadodara and the mansion in Lucknow are poles apart in their ethos, crafts, vision and way of implementation... yet, completely united by the sheer passion for design!

- Opulent, luxurious, grand and classic are apt words to describe this sprawling mansion in Lucknow designed by 42mm Architecture that takes inspiration from Renaissance architecture.
- A penthouse that is fun, unique, lively and liberated... just like its owner. architect Annkur Khosla taps into the personality of the gutsy go-getter client and creates a space that treads the unbeaten path.
- With a knack of creatively incorporating mundane things into his design, architect Harsh Boghani's Freshco – The Health Cafe in Vadodara is truly one-of-its-kind.





For a mansion fit for a king, 42mm Architecture designed an exquisite central atrium that is classic in its Tuscan look while adhering to the sacred principles of Vastu Shastra. Elements like the cast iron railing, protruding balconies overlooking the atrium, precious Botaccino inlaid in polished marble flooring, vaulted ceiling and pilasters and wall mouldings add depth to the ivory walls and grandiose to this engulfing space.

A Classical Ode

Reconciling classical Tuscan architecture with the ancient Hindu practice of Vastu Shastra, principal designer Rudraksh Charan with senior architect Gajendra Gobari, of 42mm Architecture, have created an extravagant chateau in Lucknow, spread over a sprawling 31,000-square feet.

TEXT: VISHANKA GANDHI; PHOTOGRAPHS: RAVI KANADE; COURTESY 42MM ARCHITECTURE

There is always some order in the seemingly chaotic, incomprehensible structure of all that which is natural, be it the manner in which grass proliferates over open land, or even the way man functions. Classical architecture, in some sense, reorganizes that chaos into a coherent pattern. Employing principles of this school to bring order and symmetry to a 31,000 square-foot site in a wealthy neighbourhood in the city of Lucknow is a multi-disciplinary practice — 42mm Architecture, a firm specializing in architecture, interior decoration and urban design. Established in 2005, in Delhi, 42mm Architecture is led by architects Adreesh Chakraborty and Priyanka Khanna and interior designer Rudraksha Charan. The practice has constantly strived to depart from conventional models and create a distinct approach to design, detail and technology.

This project was led by Rudraksh along with Gajendra Gobari as the senior architect. The team was commissioned to design a palatial residence for an affluent client that spoke the language of nobility and splendour. The layout of the sprawling manor is an ensemble of private, public and formal spaces. And walking through them is like going back in time,

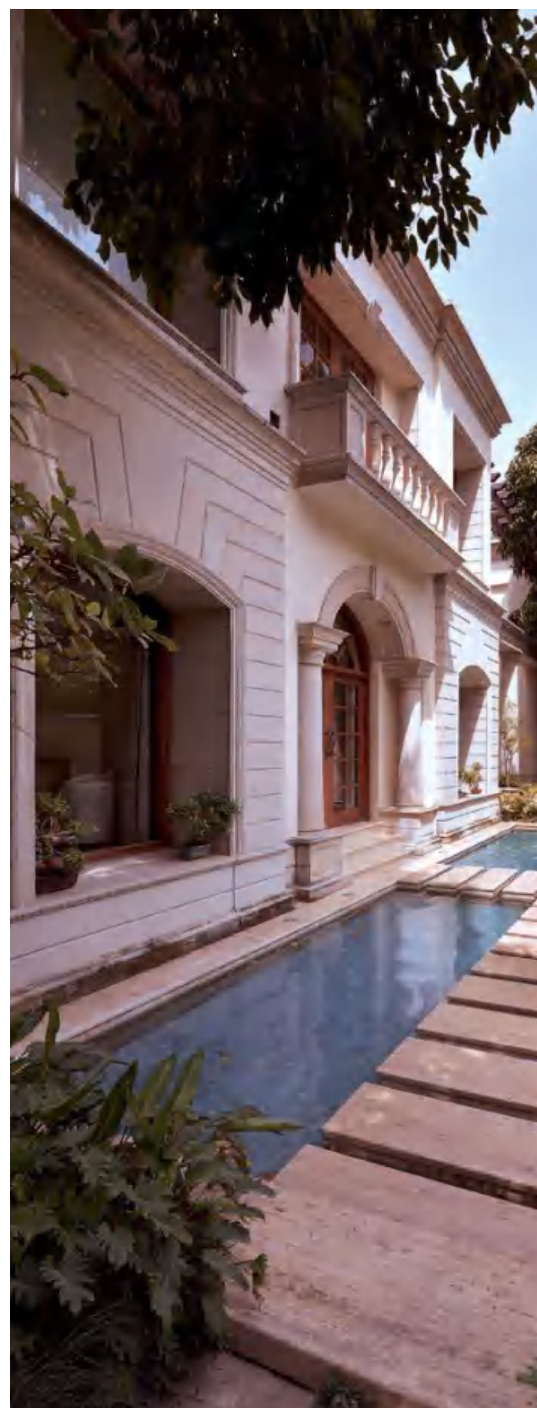
perhaps to a nobleman's house in Renaissance Italy. "The client wanted a permanent residence with classical architecture. We chose the Tuscan order since it is the most solid and least ornate of all the orders," says Charan of the brief. The classic order is contextualized with principles of Vastu Shastra, something the spatial organization staunchly adheres to. "The fundamental planning was done keeping symmetry, hierarchy and central axis — the key pillars of both Indian and classical architecture — in mind," he elaborates. Defining the two axis of symmetry are the two entrances, a landscaped pedestrian one on the north-east facade and the vehicular drop-off entry to the north-west. Both entrances are centre-aligned to the facade to ensure "visual order and balance of movement". From the two entrances, one crosses path at the central atrium, pausing for a moment to admire the sheer scale of the space. The high glass-roofed atrium performs the dual function of dividing the spaces into four zones and providing an immersing breather for the enclosed areas.

"Radiating out from the secular atrium, the south-west is the residential quarter, the north-east is the formal quarter and the north-west is the semi-public quarter," explains Charan. As a result of this concentric



ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNER

Adreesh Chakraborty, Priyanka Khanna and Rudraksha Charan.





CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT

The north-west facade forms the vehicular drop-off entry into the house. This is where you first encounter classical architecture, both in the landscaping as well as the treatment of the facade.

Similar to the front elevation, the facade facing the back lawn strictly follows the hierarchical progression of the Tuscan order.

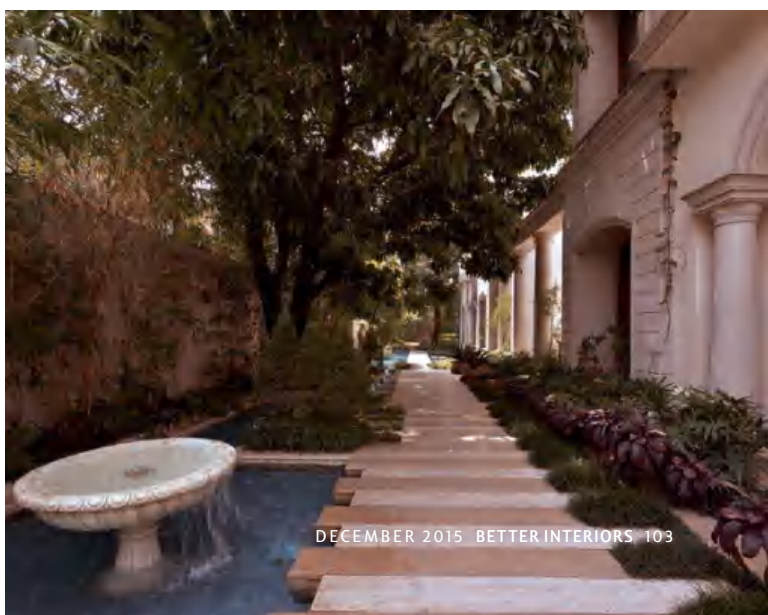
The trabeated system, a composition of unfluted Tuscan columns supporting a horizontal beam, defines the entry to the patio on the north-east side.

With due deference to mother-nature, the greenery across the 31,000 sq. ft property has been fashioned into a honed landscape, befitting the stateliness of the client and the Tuscan order governing the built form.

Archetypal elements — a stone water fountain, marble encased openings, arch-column systems defining entryways and geometrically organized greens.

This space is a montage of an old existing tree, precisely planted potted plants and organically growing creepers. Note the stone path, seemingly hovering over a sheet of water.

The main pedestrian access to the house is a stone bridge symmetrically aligned to the entry patio. Recreating the Tuscan magic is the mosaic flooring in neutral and earthy shades, manually arranged to match classic precision.





CONCEPT: A residential bliss designed for the king of real estate himself, is a house that brings out luxury in every sense. Inspired by the classics, this home is drenched in Tuscan elegance from head to toe. The planning of the site has been done keeping a harmonious rendezvous of public, private and formal quadrants in mind, all leading into a central open space.

arrangement of enclosed spaces between the open exterior and the naturally lit core, each of the rooms is copiously flooded with light and ventilation. This experience of having natural light filtering into each room from the gardens as well as the central atrium is a subtle reminder of the luxury that the house symbolizes. Also defining the penchant for extravagance is the French Renaissance furniture adorning the house. “Most of the furniture is custom made. Specifically curated by Tarun Vadhera, each piece has been prototyped multiple times to ensure top quality and accurate proportions,” says the designer.

One romanticizes, in memory or imagination, that which is far away and cannot be physically experienced at the moment. But with clever interventions, the team at 42mm Architecture juxtapose fiction with reality, enabling you to

live that dream for real. The north-west facade is the grand entry to the house. Natural stone and plain stucco walls are moulded to form the structural columns, arches and the external wall. With stone left to age with time and landscape encasing the elevation, the classic gets a touch of rusticity, thus humanizing the grand. Shades of green, inspired by the cypress trees and grapevines that line the Tuscan countryside, add depth to the light, creamy tones of the materials used. Look at the facade at night and one will be mesmerized by the soft glow of honey-coloured light oozing out of the openings, exalting the nude surface.

The entry to the north-east side is an ethereal walk across rectangular slabs of stone seemingly floating on water. This narrow path, under the soothing shade of trees that earlier defined this site, echoes with the calming

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT Nothing speaks extravagance quite like a 38-foot-high central atrium, which gains another 7ft with the vaulted roof. The RCC vault is perforated with rectangular sheets of glass, saturating the core with natural light.

To break the monotony of spaces following a certain theme, the designers created distinct floor installations in marble, onyx, and semi-precious stones.

Each room in this house has a personal rendezvous with nature as its bound together by the refreshing central courtyard. The terrace garden on the first floor is a similar break out space for the private vestibules around it.

The living room on the upper level is more French Renaissance than Tuscan. Accentuating the home's ostentation, the curtains and upholstery are a deep rustic brown, a sharp contrast to the mellow walls.





sound of water trickling from the single-tiered fountain. Planned creepers are allowed to take their course along the compound wall, while potted plants become soft buffers between the outdoor walkway and the indoor spaces to your right. With the aid of Kavita Jain, the landscape specialist for the project, the designers have recreated a visual akin to peeping into a secret garden, which fluidly morphs into a formal portico with a pedestrian bridge.

There is an implicit sense of luxury and elegance that comes with walking over a bridge that opens into the entry porch. The neutral monotones of the facade melt into pixels, meticulously arranged into a mosaic flooring on the bridge. This entry way is defined by an open-to-sky arcade, following the Tuscan order of size and proportion. This is perpendicularly aligned to the bridge, creating a volume that is an exemplar of how one-point perspective makes for an emphatic tool for dramatic entrances. Maintaining the sequence of circulation from open to shade to open spaces, the porch with a pair of tall, free-standing vases symmetrically placed on

either side of the bridge, leads to the naturally lit central atrium. Entering this 38-foot-high volume is like walking into a quiet cella, the main sanctuary of a classical temple. It is open and can be viewed from the passages on the first floor, yet feels introverted. Though the intersecting point of circulation, it remains poised and uncluttered. The only indication of the enormity of this space from the porch is the view of the sweeping staircase with cast iron railings and brass motifs. Accentuating the luxury of natural light flooding this core is precious French brown in Botaccino, inlaid in a framing pattern into the natural stone flooring, mirroring the plastered cornice framing the vaulted roof.

In line with the vehicular drop-off axis and across the atrium is the dining room. This opens up partially to form the portico, an enclosed patio with columns on the opposite side, before opening up completely and uniting with the manicured lawn on the south-east side. The dining room itself is a balance of geometric lines and organic, sweeping curves. It reinstates the contextualization of classic Tuscan features by placing warm earth-toned

CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE LEFT

The basement is a private gallery and a space to unwind. It is eclectic in essence with Mediterranean warmth infused into Tuscan elegance. Prototypical Moroccan tiles are recessed into the pilasters in the wall and heightening the therapeutic feel of the space are little white pebbles, forming a white shore at its base.

In today's day and age, handiwork is synonymous with luxury and class. The temple is exquisitely finished with thekri mirror mosaic, an ancient art form from Rajasthan.

The living room has a French window overlooking the lawn which allows for ample light and a picturesque view. The symmetrically arranged furniture is a reference to the furniture layout as seen in classic villas. It makes a robust statement with its bold ornamentation and fabric.





CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT The dining room on the ground level is made more ornamental than the private spaces, driven by its function. Its opulence can be credited to the carefully crafted dark wooden dining table contrasting against the ivory wainscot panelling on the walls.

The home theatre is both contemporary and classical. Larger than life single-seater armchairs are placed on a raised platform while the most high-tech panelling ensures sound and visual sophistication.

In the basement swimming pool the beige and nude chequered flooring is polished to a shine.

The study: this space too follows the same concept of classical architecture but is given a modern touch with comfortable leather armchairs.

The lounge in the basement serves as an extravagant bar in which to indulge. This space is a fusion of contemporary and classical styles owing to the nature of its use.



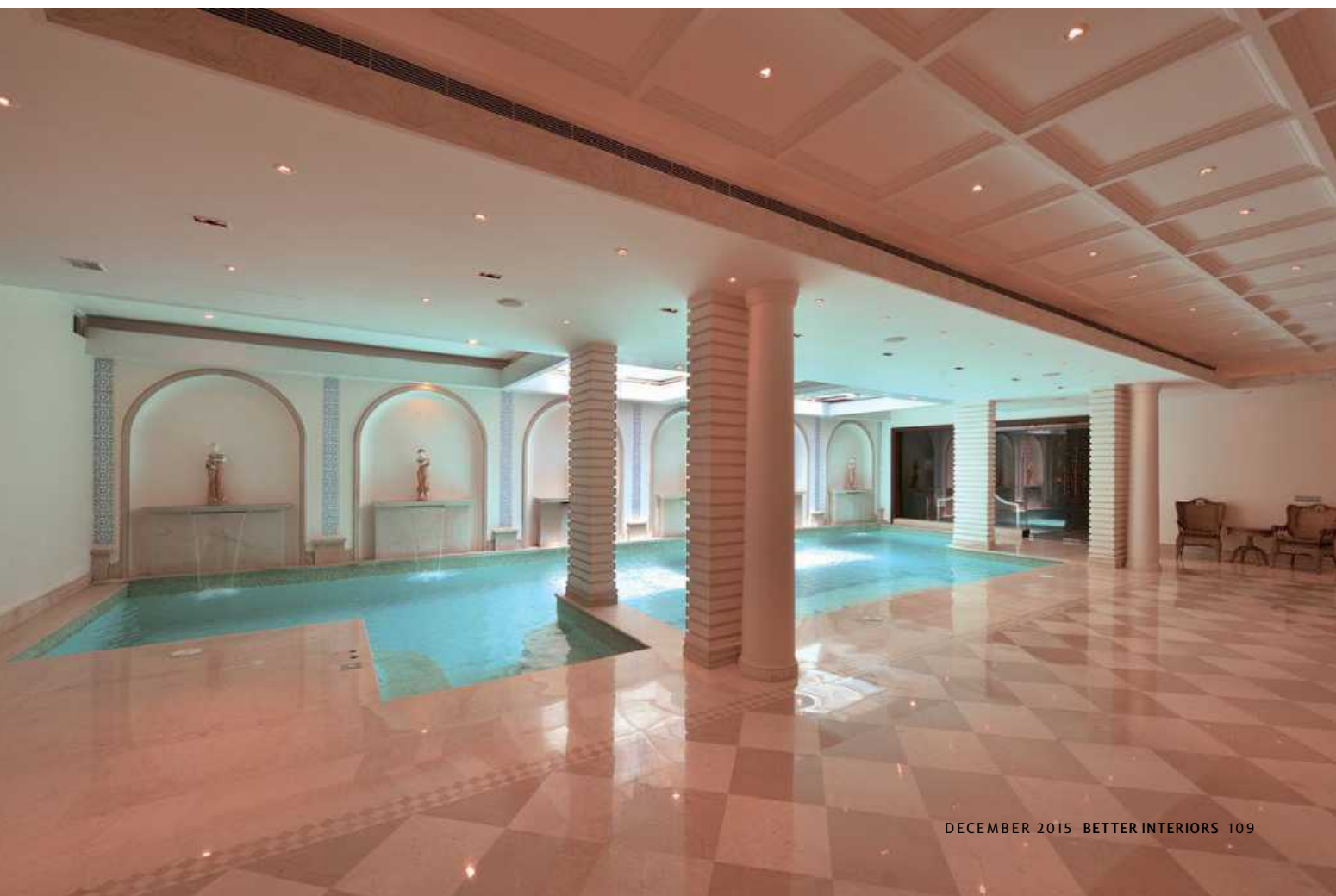
MATERIALS

Floor various types of marble, onyx and semi-precious stones, hardwood **Doors and windows** Solid Burma Teak **Curtains** Silk, linen and velvet **Kitchen counter** Granite and solid surface

furniture on a backdrop of black and white chequered flooring. Also reinstating the omnipresent splendour is the eight-seater dining table with, as I was told, a “beautiful mix of different woods on the top”. On the wall, ivory-finished, structured wainscot panelling is the milieu for the free-flowing, carved mirror frame.



The *piano nobile* (translating to ‘noble floor’ in Italian) is the principal reception and living area in this lavish manor. At approximately 15 feet above ground level, the rooms on the first floor are “a part of the private zone and designed as very warm and welcoming spaces,” describes Charan. Occupying the south-west corner on this level is the master suite. Adorning this room are facsimiles of tufted chairs and headboards. In the master bathroom, the design takes an eclectic approach as a Turkish-style bath complements the classical elements. A Balinese garden finds place adjacent to it. A similar natural breather is the terrace garden sandwiched between the master bedroom and the living room. The terrace is separated from







CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT

Unlike the drawing and dining rooms from the formal quarter, the bedrooms are simpler in detailing. Facsimiles of tufted furniture have been carefully curated by designer Tarun Vadehra.

The incorporation of a Turkish bath into the classic master bathroom makes this an eclectic space. Similar to the other private zones, a breather in the form of a Balinese garden adds an element of nature.

An ivory basin sunk into an opulent stone counter adds a touch of luxury to the master bathroom. The material continues to form a bold encasing around the mirror with blind columns reinstating the classical theme.

Great input has gone in the spatial planning of the master bedroom. Courtyards and terraces are carved into volumes and also extended from existing enclosed spaces for light and ventilation.

the enclosed areas only by a narrow threshold, allowing light and air to gracefully infiltrate the adjacent rooms.

An 8.5-foot-wide corridor is the circulation link for the spaces on the ground and first levels. Adjacent to that is the viewing corridor. Standing there looking over at the pedestrian access while basking in the light from the traditional lamps suspended from its vaulted ceiling, one cannot help but wonder in awe about the opulent life of its inhabitants. From this gallery, an azure polished sheet seems to support the bridge to the formal porch. This is the swimming pool in the basement that glimmers in the natural light. If the rest of the house is a mixture of private, public and formal quarters, the basement is simultaneously celebratory, indulgent and conducive to hibernation. Replete with a 12-seater auditorium, a spa, a Jacuzzi and a lounge with a bar, it would be perfectly acceptable for one to never leave the luxurious confines of this subterranean space. The soffit of the hall here is divided into square panels, creating a coffering of sorts. Light fixtures recessed into these panels get reflected off the polished chequered flooring, lending the basement a soft diffused glow. The nude and azure palette is livened up with exotic hints of blue of Moroccan tiles lining the wall.





CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT

A comparatively smaller living room acts as an anteroom to the daughter's bedroom. The brightest of all rooms, with ample light and ventilation, this space speaks freshness and energy.

At the son's bedroom besides two French windows on either side of the bed that open into the private court, an opening above the bed provides an added source of natural light and warmth.

The son's bathroom satisfies the idiosyncrasy of the room's inhabitant, the design of the bathroom follows a slick approach and embodies straight lines.

The daughter's bathroom comprises slightly darker neutral tones. It has a mosaic panelling representing an abstract bamboo wall.

In the daughter's room the white of the French Renaissance styled furniture gives the space a soft, dewy quality that is brought to life with the floral curtains that shield the windows.

Andrea Palladio, in the 16th century, pioneered adapting classical temple architecture for a home environment. For years, his principles have shaped monuments such as London's St Paul's cathedral and have also been moulded by modern architects into spaces that evoke those feelings of grandeur. This villa in Lucknow is a unique addition to this line of adaptation. It cleverly illustrates how style is not just about the look and feel of a space but also a reflection of the client's lifestyle. With volumetric elements like the central atrium and the entrance portico, two-dimensional elements like pilasters, and the mouldings on the wall and ceiling, the villa suggests a confidence in its inhabitants who have boldly customized their dwelling to suit needs and fulfil idiosyncratic fantasies. **BI**

FACT FILE: **Project** Classical Villa
Client Sanjay Seth and Leena Seth
Location Vikramaditya Marg, Lucknow
Area 30,000 sq ft **Built-up area** 31,000 sq ft **Principal architect** Gajendra Gobari **Principal designer** Rudraksh Charan **Design team** Adreesh Chakraborty and Priyanka Khanna **Landscape designer** Kavita Jain



ARCHITECT

Annkur Khosla



The living-dining expanse, overlooked by the swooping wings of the wooden bookcase. The graphic of a New York Street lends more depth and perspective to the space. The split air-conditioners are cleverly disguised as street signs. The dining area itself shows the spirit of whimsy that thrives in this house. Clubby chairs, complete with a detail of leather belts, are teamed with a table that would be more at home under a tree, laden with a picnic lunch. Quite fittingly, Moooi's spidery Dear Ingo chandelier hovers overhead.

Pause & Affect

Architect Annkur Khosla explores the taut, intense relationship between humans and nature to create a raw, edgy aesthetic in this Bangalore penthouse for a young, go-getter woman entrepreneur.

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; PHOTOGRAPHS: BHARAT RAMAMRUTHAM; COURTESY ANNKUR KHOSLA DESIGN STUDIO



In this world of formulaic design, of syntaxes tried and tested, spewed and respewed, of design by rote even, anything that gives you cause and pause for thinking ought to be different. At this point we aren't even debating whether it's good or bad; ugly or beautiful; full of artifice or honesty. Only that it is off the beaten track. Thus begins the dialogue on architect Annkur Khosla's creation of a home for a feisty, full of buzz, intrepid young woman in Bangalore.

"The client is a go-getter and a very sorted individual. But more importantly, she's supremely confident," reveals the architect. "She had the gumption to uproot herself from New York, where she was quite well-settled, and decide to head back to Bangalore to helm a business. That must not have been an easy decision, but she's taken it in her stride. And that gave rise to the thought of a walk in the forest, an exploration of environment... from there came the idea of urban, cutting-edge living (New York, maybe?) and a relatively nature-filled, laidback habitat (perhaps Bangalore). Two habitats at odds with each other, leading to a taut, intense relationship that has its share of conflict. The entire thought process worked at a subliminal, metaphysical level. So even if we have been inspired by nature in its rawness and honesty, you won't see a literal translation... only references to it."

That Annkur was familiar with the shell within which she was expected to create a home,



TOP Tufted linen sofas hold centrestage in the double-heightened volume of the living area. The wooden bookshelf harks to a tree, while the metal railings, whose density diminishes as one climbs up the staircase and proceeds towards the long gallery-like space, represent the aerial roots of a tree.

ABOVE A suit of armour greets the visitor as he steps into a quirky world inhabited by a sole female occupant. A knight in shining armour perhaps? Or a guardian of the gateway to a private sanctuary? This house lets you imagine and interpret. The sheltering canopy here takes the form of threads drawn between bolts. Again, nothing is literal.



This view shows another edgy twist: the area rug. It's actually a Google map of the exact location of this house, the pin itself is hidden beneath one of the furniture pieces. The table, a customized piece, represents a mesh... of thoughts, of feelings...



CONCEPT: To create a space that would mirror the confident personality of a woman entrepreneur who chose to uproot herself from a set life and travel back home to helm a large business.





OPPOSITE PAGE This page shows the two sides of what is called the bar area. One on side is a display of the client's personal mementoes and art sourced by the architect. And on the other, is an installation by artist Darwin, which depicts a seater that is 'pulled' out from behind a swathe of fabric. The round table bears sciagraphy of a bottle and a wine glass, a reference to the function of this pocket.

ABOVE Eclecticism rules. The vintage metal cabinet is another twist in the tale.

RIGHT Appreciate art from a different perspective! The underside of the staircase and the bridge that connects the two bedrooms on the upper level bears vivid flourishes of paint. The art draws from nature, both animal and human, depicting perhaps the tenuous relationship between the two. The art also had to be 'designed' such that it fitted the pleats of the stairs in a meaningful manner.

worked in her favour. "I am also the architect for the building. So I knew how I could exploit the space to its maximum. Little did I know when I designed the penthouse that I would be working on its interiors as well." The philosophical path that the design tread, slowly took shape of a racy, on-the-edge, avant-garde home. It showcased the rawness, the sculptural quality and the randomness of its inspirational roots. But the attempt on Annkur's part was always to crystallize the randomness into a defined structure through various materials. "We could not pick up suites of furniture and simply plug them in. Every little detail had to be seen in the light of the basic design concept. Every item had to satisfy the definition."

The idea was also to present, with as much equilibrium as possible, the impressions of freedom and containment; of shelter and openness. And thus the design team arrived at

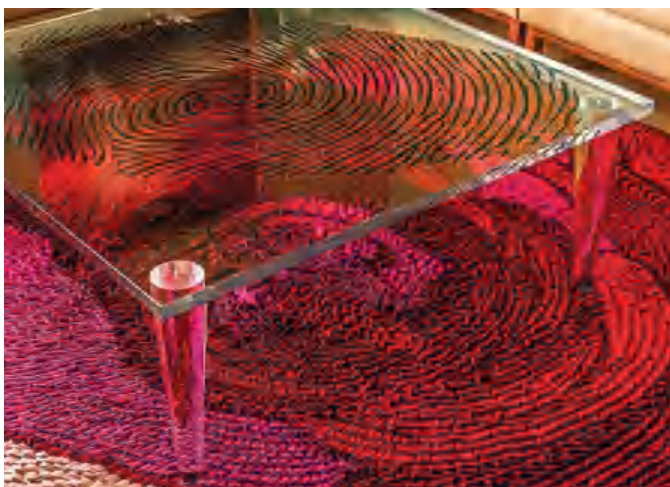
MATERIALS

Flooring Agglomerate stone (public areas); black granite, jaisalmer, Spanish tiles (washrooms); white agglomerate marble (library); wood and laminate (bedrooms) **Walls** Paint, wallpaper, oak panelling **Area rugs** Wool





The shell of the space is misleading. From the entrance, it is neutral, demure and retiring. But step inside, and the artwork on the lower face of the staircase unfurls into view, much like the wings of this glorious peacock. Look at me, it seems to say. Look up to me; there are different perspectives to things.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT Fortuny floor lamp by Pallucco Lighting stands in a corner of the study, surrounded by Library Wallpaper from Andrew Martin.

Johnathan Adler's Dora Maar vase graces a table in the bar area.

Artist Darwin's rendering of a sofa being pulled from behind a wall of fabric. For all its artsy roots, the installation is surprisingly ergonomic and eminently functional.

A glass table-top bears a thumbprint, perhaps to convey how personal this space is to the client.



ABOVE The study has a Roche Bobois swivel chair, in addition to wallpaper by Andrew Martin and a lamp by Pallucco Lighting. The canopy here takes the form of random scaffolding.

LEFT The bathroom attached to the study. The angularity of the canopy in the study proper gets carried over as a geometric print on veneer. The pattern itself seems simple, but the unpredictable colour-plays bestow complexity.

the concept of creating canopies and pavilions at various intervals, interspersed throughout the apartment as non-predictable intrusions into the space. Within a largely sedate shell, the boldness in colour effected through hard and soft furnishing, depicts the serenity and ferocity of nature rich in hue and texture.

Each space has its own narrative. In the living area, for example, the trunk of a tree is interpreted as an enormous, two-pronged shelving unit, one arm of which seamlessly blends into the banisters of the stairs. The slim steel railing rods that diminish in density as you climb the stairs and move along a bridge that connects two bedrooms, represent the hanging roots of the tree. "As I said, all these are metaphors. But one thing is of prime importance to us: functionality. So even if the railings grow far apart, they still won't allow a child to get up to mischief. We don't ever sacrifice practicality just to make a statement." On the underside of the staircase and the aforesaid bridge is an artwork, a scintillating, iridescent depiction, again of the human and animals worlds. "This again was to offer a different perspective to appreciating something that is normally viewed in a certain prescribed format. We thought: why not admire art from below? We also didn't want the space to wear its heart on its sleeve, so to speak. This allows the user to explore the space and discover it at his leisure." Across the living





The master bedroom. A regular four-poster is reinterpreted as a sleeping area under the twisted, swaying fronds of a palm tree. Again, gently cocooning but not stifling. The generous shot of green, effected in polyurethane, uplifts the space to another level.



The master toilet. The agglomerate stone flooring is punctuated by stylish Spanish tiles. The wardrobe by Nolte with its inset of grey glass stands facing a pair of suspended mirrors.



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE LEFT The canopy of a four-poster bed sees a geometrical translation of palm leaves.

The chair, a bespoke design was inspired by a butterfly and the multitude of hexagonal fabric pieces are stitched delicately together to form the seat. Note the zoomorphic legs.

The twig table, rendered in mild steel, harks back to the nature-driven theme of the space.

The guest room has a bed back pinned with 'Clouds' designed by the Ronan and ErwanBouroullec brothers from Kvadrat.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT The bookcase effortlessly turns into the banister.

The large V of the bookshelf dominates the volume of the living room.

The custom-designed bench bears a geometric print pasted on to glass.

The dining chairs have a design accent of a leather belt. The legs of these chairs, too, are zoomorphic and inspired by those of an antelope.



TOP The headboard, with its appliqué leather design, forms the highlight of this bedroom.

ABOVE The attached bathroom is dressed in honeyed tones of polished and flamed jaisalmer.

room, however, near the entrance, is an artwork that is unapologetically in-your-face: a typical New York street view, peopled by frenetic energy, its perspective amplifying the depth of the room – something no flat-painted wall could have ever achieved.

The master bedroom talks about uncontained containment, of semi-permeability, of being there... barely. The four-poster bed is one example of the canopy devices that the design team relied upon to lend some rhythm to a large space that would have otherwise run amok. “We had volume, but we needed to tone it down,” says Annkur. “The way we reacted to the act of constriction became significant. Too much, and we’d lose the advantage of scale; too little and it would not serve its purpose.” So the four-poster was treated to a graphical translation of a folded, twisted palm frond. “It’s the feeling you’d get if you were resting under a tree. Dappled shade, the breeze would still waft over you... you’d have shelter, but you’d still be in the midst of everything.” In fact, the canopies and the pavilions throughout this house are reduced to the irreducible: an interesting geometry of threads; a series of interlinked triangles; a wrap that brings to mind a sliver of hash browned potato.

Creating a space with so much sensory input wasn’t an easy task, admits Annkur readily.



ABOVE The second bedroom on the upper level shelters under an installation of interlinked triangles.

LEFT The adjacent bathroom features Italian marble and granite. The movable mirror is actually a window pane.

“Analyzing space through a photograph, or even a rendered image, is quite different from visualizing it holistically. The former is a flat medium, with definite boundaries. But when it comes to an actual space, it becomes an immersive experience, a continuous feed... the very opposite of discrete units. Therefore, though you may now think that a certain object looks fine in a particular photograph, it may behave very differently in reality.”

Thankfully, everything in this project — be it the tartantula-like Dear Ingo chandelier that hovers over the pinewood dining table; the artsy bench by artist Darwin that seems as if its being pulled out of a wall of fabric; or the area rug in the living area that is actually the Google map of the building’s location — seems to have dovetailed beautifully.

Annkur has enough zen in her to look at the project dispassionately and admit that design such as this has limited following. “It is definitely not everyone’s cup of tea.” We agree. But when she wonders whether it is gimmicky, we beg to differ, most emphatically. **B1**

FACT FILE: **Location** Bangalore **Area** 6,850 sq ft **Principal architect** Annkur Khosla **Design team** Vidya Shetty, Mitika Shah and Urmila Kumbhar **Art** Prabhakar Kolte, Sheetal Gattani, Sunil Padwal **Graphic artist (living room)** Vivek S **Artist (staircase underside)** Sai Babu **Bench (bar area)** Darwin **Kitchen and wardrobes** Nolte

{CentreStage} Space & Spice

Local Produce

At Freshco – The Health Cafe in Vadodara, architect Harsh Boghani's knack for improvising has resulted in a unique design that's minimal, yet inviting, and reflective of the cafe's organic ethos.

TEXT: ALIFIYA MEHAMDABADWALA; PHOTOGRAPHS: TEJAS SHAH COURTESY THE CROSSBOUNDARIES



ARCHITECT

HARSH BOGHANI



The multi-coloured wall, chairs and lights lift the cafe's otherwise muted decor, while the lime-wood-finished tables and plants add natural elements.

Space & Spice

The Health Cafe

freshco



ABOVE A view of the cafe all lit up. The arrangement of the furniture and minimalist design create a sense of spaciousness and flow.

RIGHT The table here is suspended by an invisible thin thread making it appear almost as if it's floating, while the incandescent light hanging overhead emits a warm glow.

Ingenuity is a gift, and often, it is the most talented, intelligent and artistic minds that have the ability to observe, imbibe and react to circumstances to create something that's out-of-the-box. Most of the time, these discoveries or creations are a result of weird interventions, random conversations or chance encounters.

The inception of Freshco – The Health Cafe, too, was the result of one such offhand conversation. Four friends — Pritesh Mistry, Harsh Vora, Vishwaroop Joshi and Mangesh Holihousur — were trying to break free from their respective jobs in India and abroad and hoped to start their own little business. It's not uncommon to hear of friends cooking up plans of starting a venture together on the fly; over time though, the initial excitement usually fizzles out. Here too, nothing took root until a vacation to Mount Abu a few years later where their laid-back chat finally turned into a concrete business plan. The four decided that a cafe, unique to their city Vadodara, would be the ideal project to set the ball rolling.

A few months later, their childhood friend and architect, Harsh Boghani of Vadodara-based The Crossboundaries was brought on board to give form to this idea. Before we move on to how this wonderfully fresh (for a lack of another befitting word) and charming cafe was





CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE LEFT The cafe brings the outdoors inside with decorative elements such as the wooden boxes housing creepers that adorn its walls and pillars.

A small button light highlights the name of the cafe displayed on the surface of the service counter.

The hues in the multi-coloured panel reflect the cafe's fresh, organic offerings.

The use of simple, everyday materials can elevate the ambience of a space. Polystyrene disposable cups placed in illuminated transparent acrylic boxes provide visual interest.

Space & Spice



At night, the illuminated cafe exudes a friendly, inviting ambience.

CONCEPT: To create a unique space, both minimal and modern, that does justice to the conception of a health cafe.

designed, a little introduction of the new and talented firm is elemental to the being of the cafe.

Founded by Harsh, and supported by father and architect Shailesh Bhogani (who has three decades of experience in the field), The Crossboundaries draws inspiration from nature and blends contemporary aesthetics with the environment. A diverse global exposure (he did his Masters in Architecture from Spain and worked with notable architectural firms in Beijing, Dubai and Singapore) and vision reflects in Harsh's work which is a blend of modern aesthetics imbibed from cultural diversities. Therefore, his approach towards every project is a synergy of aesthetics, design, ideologies and culture.

Since the clients in question were his childhood friends, Harsh took to their dream instantly and was part of the entire project from concept to completion. Once the 780-sq ft space was rented out, Bhogani began visualizing a palette in greens and vibrant colours reminiscent of varied juices. A limited budget challenged him and urged him to experiment with innumerable

materials and design elements. He conceptualized a space that was free-flowing, lively and modern. "The main idea of the design was to make the atmosphere harmonize with the organic food that is offered in the cafe," he says. To that end, there's an abundance of indoor greenery. Artificial grass cut-outs have been placed in niches on a 13-foot-long cantilevered L-shaped table to the left of the entrance as well as on the 5-foot-long table on

MATERIALS

Flooring Wooden finished vinyl tiles
Walls Paint, wallpaper
Furniture Laminated HDF (tables), plastic and fabric with polished teak (chairs)



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT

This pendant has been made using fishbowls of two sizes. The smaller ones have been coloured and inserted with ping-pong balls to create a layered custom light.

The incandescent lights are sleek and modern in design.

Little green vases filled with plants have been kept on the tables as centrepieces.

The patchworks on some of the Eames chairs create a striking effect against the otherwise black furniture.

Who would have thought that polystyrene disposable cups could be turned into a work of art?

Great thought has gone into every little detail of the cafe's decor. Here, an adorable miniature cycle and a mini potted plant add a touch of quirk.



One can enjoy solitude while sitting on these tall stools set up against the glass wall and the long table.

the right. Creepers hang from elongated boxes along the cafe walls, while mini plants find themselves perched on the dining tables.

While the greenery adds a sense of vitality to the space, a multi-coloured wall, boxes with polystyrene disposable cups and colourful pendant lights brighten up the minimalist atmosphere. Each of these elements was customized to suit the overall mood. Initially, the plan was to splash a panel on the feature wall with fruit juices to create art. After a few failed attempts, Harsh decided to create a digitally printed splash wall with colours of grapes, apples, oranges, tomatoes and blueberries instead. Similarly, despite a lot of scouting, the architect was unable to find lighting fixtures that suited the budget. So he decided to improvise. He created an innovative pendant out of a large fish bowl into which he inserted six miniature ones that he had painted and filled with ping-pong balls. Again, owing to the limited budget, the wall opposite the feature wall was kept barren till the end. Here

too, the architect's creativity elevated an otherwise mundane surface — transparent acrylic boxes were filled with white polystyrene disposable cups. The glow from the back-lit LED lights penetrates through the spaces between the glasses to a stunning effect.

Whether it's the grey wall that traces the cafe's journey from inception, the black service counter with a tiny button light illuminating the Freshco logo or the bright blue washbasin, each element in the cafe has been created with great thought and in the process, lends a sublime yet purposeful character to the space.

One can easily get used to sipping on fresh juice and watching the world go by while perched on the high telescopic-legged black stools at one of the longer tables. And if while turning the pages of this article, you get the same sense of vitality and exuberance that is so much a part of this space, then the architect has succeeded in creating the unique experience his clients and friends were vying for. **BI**

FACT FILE: **Project Name** Freshco – The Health Cafe **Location** Vadodara, Gujarat
Area 780 sq ft **Principal architects** Harsh Boghani, Shailesh Boghani

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RECTILINEAR BEAUTY

Grandeur brings to India the Amalfi Full range by Italian brand Del Tongo designed by Centro Ricerca e Sviluppo. The range is a tribute to celebrated architect Mies van der Rohe's philosophy of "less is more". Therefore, Amalfi Full has a neat, clean and straight-lined character on the outside; while inside, it provides wide, functional spaces as great storage options. The specialty of the range is the straight-line aluminium groove built into the head of the door, which completes the linear design while maintaining the functionality of a handle. In many models, countertop surfaces can be detached and moved around to form dining tables or additional worktops. The range also offers double-height loft units to create customizable lofts for more storage space.

PRICE ON REQUEST



DUAL BENEFITS

LG's latest Side-by-Side refrigerator is claimed to be India's largest capacity refrigerator at 1,001 litres. Crafted for the busy lifestyle one leads these days, the Side-by-Side puts an end to the worries about storing food and vegetables and other perishables. The unique Dual Door-in-Door feature, offers revolutionary ways of maximizing space for frequently used items. The Inverter Linear Compressor in the Dual Door-in-Door keeps food fresh and consumes far less energy. LG's Hygiene Fresh technology applies five layers of air filter that eradicates most contaminants like dust and bacteria, keeping food free from air-borne bacteria. This refrigerator has the world's first Curved Glass Door with a premium design and luminous black finish. LG offers a 10 year warranty for the product.

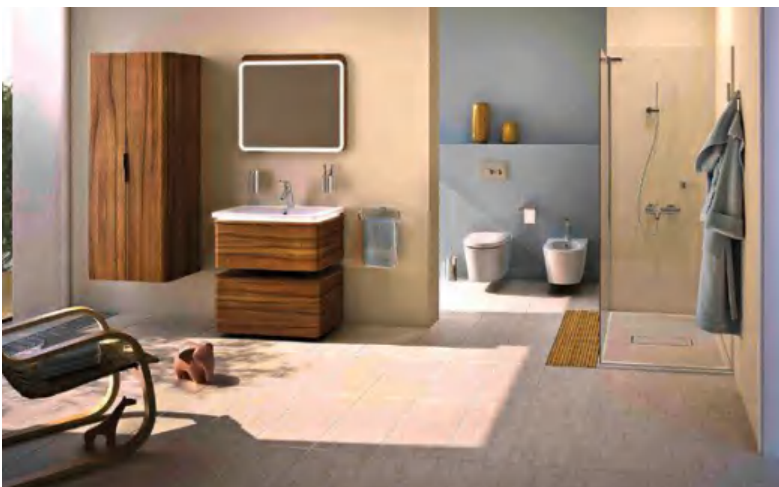
₹ 3,09,990



CLEANING DYNAMITE

Eureka Forbes has introduced a revolutionary vacuum cleaner — Euroclean Dynamite. The Active Shield coating on the HEPA type filter not only removes dirt and dust, but also traps harmful micro-organisms and dust mites. Thanks to the best-in-class 1000W max motor, the Dynamic Suction feature ensures intelligent air flow dynamics, and superior suction which goes deep to wipe out even the most stubborn dirt and dust. Clearing the dust bag is easy with one touch dust cap system and a shoulder-strap to optimize hands-free technology. The Dyno Max Blower is designed to ensure the most powerful outflow of air that drives away dust and dirt from every nook and corner.

₹ 5,100



VOGUSH BATHROOM

Vitra has introduced a new range of highly modular family bathroom furniture — Nest Trendy. Designed by Pentagon Design, a leading Finnish design agency, Nest Trendy draws inspiration from the needs and desires of every member of the family and is backed with Vitra's aesthetics and advanced technology. The series offers a wealth of features right from the child step, night lights to the laundry cabinet and easy to reach storage areas. It also comes with a heat gauge for the digital bathroom mixer which would display water temperature with great accuracy. Equipped with smart functionality, a display allows the users to keep a track of the water flow and the total water used, enabling more efficient savings.

PRICE ON REQUEST



BESPOKE MATTRESS

Sleepwell, India's leading mattress brand from the Sheela Group, latest offering is My Mattress. This collection allows a customer to conveniently choose his preferred sleeping surface — be it a hard mattress or a medium hard mattress, or a soft mattress. Another interesting fact, all surface feels are offered at the same price point. The range includes: Sleepwell My Mattress Esteem which comes with a premium pillow top and has the internationally recognized Zero Turn Technology. It is available in three feels; Esteem Firmtec, Esteem Supportec and Esteem Softec. Sleepwell My Mattress Dignity is available as Dignity Firmtec, Dignity Supportec and Dignity Softec; while the Sleepwell My Mattress Admire has the Admire Firmtec, Admire Supportec and Admire Softec.

₹ 10,500 TO ₹ 22,000 (FOR A DOUBLE SIZE MATTRESS)



KITCHEN KINGS

The Vauth Sagel range of accessories which are exclusively available with Hafele recently unveiled their latest kitchen innovations Cornerstone and VSA. Vauth Sagel, which is well known for their space optimization accessories has another hit with the Cornerstone, a swivelling system component for corner cabinets that automatically extends the entire contents out of the cabinet upon opening the door. In this the travel path is controlled and is confined to the area of the corner cabinet carcass — which offers the advantage of utilizing neighbouring cabinets. Vauth Sagel's VSA is an innovative system solution for opening angles of 90-160°. This new generation of cabinets automatically and comfortably moves the baskets and stored items towards the user, hence providing a perfect overview of the contents.

PRICE ON REQUEST



PURE AND CLEAN

Honeywell's latest air purifier, Air Touch, comes with a unique three stage filtration process: Pre Filter removes larger dust particles, the patented HiSiv filter with unique honeycomb design removes formaldehyde, toxic gases and odour, and the high-efficiency HEPA grade H11 filter removes microscopic allergens. It purifies an ideal area of 270 square feet and comes with a DIY filter replacement procedure. Air Touch consumes only 52W at highest fan speed and 7.5W at lowest fan speed and has a filter life of approximately 3,000 hours. The most impressive feature is the sound less function — the in-built sleep mode reduces fan speed automatically, cuts down noise and the Indicator lights turn off simultaneously. Available in White and Champagne Gold hues.

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Somany Ceramic's newest offering Stone16 is a collection of outdoor floor tiles with thickness as high as 16 mm. Available in size 600 mm x 600 mm, this range of thick Durastone tiles is one of the toughest tiles in the market. Stone 16 boasts of craftsmanship, innovation and the charm of rustic beauty in a unique amalgamation, thus creating elegance and luxury. The range is easy to lay and provides excellent performance which guarantees resistance to load, anti-skid finish and easy maintenance. Available in a wide range of elegant patterns and styles in natural hue of stone and wood.

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(See Colour & Style)

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(See Hi Five!)

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VITRA

(See Hi Five!)



Pg 114 Modern, arty, quirky, fun, cool... the list of adjectives to describe this home in Bangalore designed by architect Annkur Khosla (in *Habitat*) is never-ending. Colour, texture, technique, creativity and a sense of space all come together to make this home a fun place to be. The wall art, the furniture, the light fixtures are all so unique, so out of the ordinary and so unlike each other, yet when they come together, it is a vision. I do not have enough words to express my absolute love for this space. Every time we come out with an issue, I feel that I've seen it all and that nothing can surprise me, but I'm proven each time. And aren't I glad!

Alifiya Mehamdabadwala

Everyone has their favourites and the **Better Interiors** team is no exception. Sure, we are a bunch of committed 'unbiased' folk who report on design trends faithfully... but we also drool and how!

Pg 100 This entrance of the home featured in *Habitat* and designed by 42mm Architecture reminds me of the grand entrances of a Karan Johar movie set. It is indeed surreal that people... real people... actually stay in houses like this. The elegant staircase, the beautiful flooring and the amazing skylit roof all amalgamate into this picture-perfect dream house entrance. I can picture myself wearing an evening gown and eagerly waiting at the top of the stairs for my prince charming. Sigh! Only if dreams were real.

Varuna Naik



Pg 68 Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle All The Way... I cannot help humming this song whenever I see anything related to Christmas. My earliest memories of this wonderful festival are watching *Home Alone*, *Jingle All the Way*, etc with cousins during vacations. We were all obsessed with Santa Claus and craved to be living in a huge house with a chimney. We fantasized about Santa climbing down the chimney and bringing us our desired toys. Lladro's figurine *Down the Chimney* (featured in *Bazaar*) brought back all those memories. It is such a delightful and colourful show piece!

Vilas Salve